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# REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION*

(27 February-8 March 1991)

* The present document is a mimeographed version of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session. The final report will be issued as Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 8 (E/1991/28).

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## SUMMARY

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends seven draft resolutions and two draft decisions for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

In draft resolution I, the Commission urges the Secretary-General to accord greater priority to increasing the number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts in order to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995, and to accord priority to increasing the participation rate for women to 25 per cent in posts at the D-1 level and above, within the overall participation rate for women of 35 per cent, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from the developing countries and those countries with a low representation of women. In draft resolution II, the Commission recommends that a framework for an international instrument be developed in consultation with the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that would explicitly address the issue of violence against women. In draft resolution III, the Commission demands that an end be put to the oppressive Israeli measures against the intifadah and the consequent suffering experienced by Palestinian women and their families in the occupied Palestinian territory and requests the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the mission of experts. In draft resolution IV, the Commission urges the Government of South Africa to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women at the earliest possible opportunity, demands the unconditional release by 30 April 1991 of all political prisoners and detainees, among whom are women and children, and urges the international community to maintain all existing and any other necessary measures against South Africa until all the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa have been met. In draft resolution V, the Commission requests the ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, established by the Commission for Social Development in its resolution 32/2, to pay attention to the particular needs of disabled women. In draft resolution VI, the Commission urges countries that have not yet done so to establish, as soon as possible, and at the latest by 1995, national machinery for the advancement of women that will allow it to have a direct effect on government policy. In draft resolution VII, the Commission calls upon Member States urgently to address the root causes of refugee movements and displacement, and calls upon the international community to give priority to extending international protection to refugee women and children.

In recommending its provisional agenda and documentation for its thirty-sixth session (draft decision I), the Commission requests the Council to approve the holding of four additional meetings of the Commission, simultaneously with the plenary meetings during its thirty-sixth session, in order to consider the preparations for the world conference on women (draft decision II).

The Commission adopted seven resolutions, by which it recommended measures on programme and planning matters (resolution 35/1); called upon international organizations to take specific measures to reinforce national efforts directed at improving the legal and social status of women

(resolution 35/2); outlined measures to be taken concerning the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (resolution 35/3); decided to prepare for consideration by the world conference on women in 1995 a programme of action comprising a limited number of issues that have been identified as representing a fundamental obstacle to the advancement of the majority of women (resolution 35/4); invited Member States to evaluate and strengthen their policies and programmes for the control of AIDS for the benefit of women, and outlined a number of measures in that respect (resolution 35/5); encouraged Member States to establish or strengthen appropriate services dealing with questions on the international migration of workers and members of their families (resolution 35/6); and urged Governments to adopt policies to promote economic development that would ensure the full and explicit integration of women's concerns (resolution 35/7).

As the preparatory committee for the world conference on women, the Commission decided that the world conference on women in 1995 should be entitled "Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace" (decision 35/101). With regard to the venue of the conference, the Commission took note of the offer made by the Government of China to act as host for the conference in 1995 and, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/129, agreed to decide on the venue of the conference at its thirty-sixth session (decision 35/102). The Commission decided to defer to its thirty-sixth session consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" (decision 35/103).

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## Chapter I

## MATTERS CALLING FOR ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL OR BROUGHT TO ITS ATTENTION

### A. Draft resolutions

1. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

### DRAFT RESOLUTION I

### Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ in particular paragraphs 306, 315, 356 and 358, in which importance is attached to the appointment of women in the Secretariat at senior decision-making and managerial levels,

Recalling also the relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and other bodies that have been adopted since Assembly resolution 2715 (XXV) of 15 December 1970,

Recalling further the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat, 2/

Noting that the Steering Committee for the Improvement of the Status of Women in the Secretariat has submitted its report to the Secretary-General,

Noting with satisfaction that the question of the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat continues to be an item on the agenda of the Administrative Committee on Coordination,

Taking note of the relevant section of the report of the International Civil Service Commission, 3/

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* For the discussion, see chap. II.

1/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

2/ A/45/548.

3/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 30 (A/45/30).

Noting with concern that the goal of an overall participation rate for women of 30 per cent by 1990 in posts subject to geographical distribution had not been achieved and that their representation in senior policy-level and decision-making posts had not improved,

Noting the new goal of achieving by 1995 an overall participation rate of 35 per cent of all posts subject to geographical distribution, and of increasing the number of women in senior policy-level and decision-making posts,

1. Urges the Secretary-General to accord greater priority to increasing the number of women in posts subject to geographical distribution, particularly in senior policy-level and decision-making posts, in order to achieve an overall participation rate of 35 per cent by 1995, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from the developing countries and those countries with a low representation of women;

2. Also urges the Secretary-General to accord priority to increasing, by 1995, the participation rate for women to 25 per cent in posts at the D-1 level and above, within the overall participation rate for women of 35 per cent in posts subject to geographical distribution, taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from the developing countries and those countries with a low representation of women;

3. Welcomes the equest of the General Assembly, in resolutions 45/125 of 14 December 1990 and 45/239 C of 21 December 1990, that the Secretary-General develop a new action programme for the advancement of women in the Secretariat for the period 1991-1995, incorporating as necessary the unfulfilled points of the 1985-1990 action programme, and taking into account the recommendations of the Steering Committee, as appropriate, and the special measures to implement them;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to include in the action programme (a) a comprehensive evaluation and analysis of the main obstacles to the improvement of the status of women in the Organization, (b) proposed measures to overcome the underrepresentation of women from certain Member States, and (c) a detailed programme of activities, including monitoring procedures and a timetable for their completion;

5. Also requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to ensure that adequate machinery, with the authority of enforcement and the responsibility of accountability, including a senior-level official devoted to implementation of the action programme, is maintained and, to the extent possible, strengthened during the course of the programme for the period 1991-1995;

6. Requests Member States to continue to support the efforts of the United Nations, including the regional commissions and of the specialized agencies and related organizations to increase the participation of women in the Professional category and above by, inter alia, nominating more women candidates, especially for senior policy-level and decision-making posts, by encouraging women to apply for vacant posts and by creating national rosters of women candidates to be shared with the Secretariat of the United Nations, the executive bodies of the specialized agencies and related organizations;

7. Further requests the Secretary-General to ensure that his annual report, updated as appropriate, on progress achieved, includes strategies and modalities to implement the action programme and the relevant mandates adopted by the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, and to submit the report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session and to the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session, as well as to those bodies that have administrative, budgetary and personnel responsibilities for the improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat.

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Violence against women in all its forms*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in which it was stated that violence against women was a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, 4/

Bearing in mind the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies, contained in the annex to its resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, which concluded that violence against women in the family and society was pervasive and crossed lines of income, class and culture, and specifically recommendation XXII, which called for immediate action on the part of Governments, relevant agencies, women's organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to address the issue of violence against women,

Noting its resolution 1988/27 of 26 May 1988, in which the Council called for the continuation of the consolidation of efforts to eradicate violence against women within the family and society,

Noting also the relevant recommendations of the Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders 5/ and of

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

4/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A, para. 258.

5/ See Sixth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Caracas, 25 August-5 September 1980: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.81.IV.4), chap. I.

the Eighth Congress 6/ and the relevant observations of the Seventh Congress, 7/

Bearing in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, which guarantees the right of women to equal status with men,

Noting that in its general recommendation No. 12, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that States parties include in their periodic reports to the Committee information on measures undertaken to protect women against the incidence of all kinds of violence in everyday life occurring within the family, at the workplace or in any other area of social life, 8/ and that the Committee decided at its tenth session to undertake at its eleventh session a study of violence against women, 9/

Also noting, however, that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women does not explicitly address violence against women,

1. Calls upon Member States to recognize that violence against women must be countered by a wide variety of measures;

2. Reminds Member States that violence against women is an issue of equal rights that derives from a power imbalance between women and men in society;

3. Urges Member States to adopt, strengthen and enforce legislation prohibiting violence against women;

4. Also urges Member States to take all appropriate administrative, social and educational measures to protect women from all forms of physical or mental violence;

5. Recommends that a framework for an international instrument be developed in consultation with the Committee for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women that would address explicitly the issue of violence against women;

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6/ "Report of the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders" (A/CONF.144/28).

7/ See Seventh United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Milan, 26 August-6 September 1985: report prepared by the Secretariat (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.86.IV.1).

8/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/44/38), chap. V.

9/ Ibid., Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38).

6. Requests the Secretary-General, through the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, to convene in 1991 or 1992 a meeting, to be funded from extrabudgetary resources, of experts representing all regions, including representatives of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, to address the issue of violence against women and to discuss the possibilities of preparing such an international instrument and the elements to be contained therein and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session;

7. Urges Governments at all levels to develop training programmes for members of the criminal justice system and health-care system, including police officers, doctors, nurses, social workers and members of the legal profession, to ensure sensitization to and fair administration of justice with respect to equality issues;

8. Requests Governments, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, other relevant bodies and academics, to undertake research into the causes of violence against women.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION III

### Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered the reports of the Secretary-General 10/ and the notes by the Secretary-General 11/ concerning the situation of Palestinian women living inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territory,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 12/ in particular paragraph 260 thereof,

Recalling also its resolutions 1988/25 of 26 May 1988, 1989/34 of 24 May 1989 and 1990/11 of 24 May 1990,

Expressing concern at the persistent refusal of Israel to respect the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 13/

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

10/ E/CN.6/1988/8 and Corr.1 and E/CN.6/1989/4 and Corr.1.

11/ E/CN.6/1990/10 and E/CN.6/1991/9.

12/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

13/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973.

Taking into account the intifadah of the Palestinian people in the occupied Palestinian territory against the Israeli occupation, and its harmful effects on Palestinian women and children,

Dismayed at the continuation of the oppressive practices of Israel, including collective punishment, curfews, demolition of houses, closure of schools and universities, deportation, confiscation of land and measures that are particularly harmful to the Palestinian women and children in the occupied Palestinian territory,

Deeply alarmed by the continuation of the practice of settling Jewish immigrants in the territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, which is illegal and contravenes the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention,

1. Reaffirms that the basic improvement of the living conditions of the Palestinian women, their advancement, full equality and self-reliance can only be achieved through an end to the Israeli occupation and the attainment of the right of Palestinians to return to their homes, their right to self-determination and their right to establish an independent Palestinian State in accordance with United Nations resolutions;

2. Also reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, is applicable to the Palestinian people in the territory occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

3. Demands that an end be put to the oppressive Israeli measures against the intifadah and the consequent suffering experienced by Palestinian women and their families in the occupied Palestinian territory;

4. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260, which concerns assistance to Palestinian women both inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territory;

5. Requests governmental, non-governmental, and intergovernmental organizations, including organizations of the United Nations system, to continue to encourage and assist in existing income-generating activities for Palestinian women and in the creation of new jobs;

6. Requests that Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory be assisted in developing small-scale industry and creating vocational training centres;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to monitor the implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the mission of experts 14/ in order to improve the situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territory;

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14/ E/CN.6/1990/10.

8. Also requests the Secretary-General to continue his investigation of the situation of Palestinian women and children and to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the mission of experts.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION IV

### Women and children under apartheid*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1990/13 of 24 May 1990,

Recalling also the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-16/1 of 14 December 1989, and contained in the annex thereto,

Noting the positive changes initiated by the Government of South Africa aimed at dismantling the system of apartheid,

Deeply concerned about the continuing degradation and abuse of African women and children by the white minority regime of South Africa as noted in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 15/

Recognizing that the equality of women and men cannot be achieved without the success of the struggle towards a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa,

1. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on women and children living under apartheid; 16/

2. Commends those women both inside and outside South Africa who have resisted oppression and who have remained steadfast in their opposition to apartheid;

3. Urges all parties engaged in negotiations for a post-apartheid society to ensure that the principle of equality between women and men is incorporated in all laws and institutions;

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* For the discussion, see chap. III.

15/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, Kenya, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

16/ E/CN.6/1991/8.

4. Also urges the Government of South Africa to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 17/ at the earliest possible opportunity;

5. Appeals to all countries and United Nations bodies, in consultation with liberation movements, as appropriate, to increase their support for educational, health, vocational training and employment opportunities for women and children living under apartheid;

6. Demands the unconditional release by 30 April 1991 of all political prisoners and detainees, among whom are women and children, in accordance with the undertaking of the President of South Africa;

7. Urges the international community to maintain all existing and any other necessary measures against South Africa until all the provisions of the Declaration on Apartheid and its Destructive Consequences in Southern Africa, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution S-16/1, have been met;

8. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women should remain seized of the issue of women and children living under apartheid.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION V

### Disabled women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraphs 277 to 282 and 296, in which disabled women are considered a vulnerable group, 18/

Recalling also resolution 34/4 of 8 March 1990 of the Commission on the Status of Women, 19/

Reaffirming its support for the 1982 World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, 20/

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* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

17/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

18/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

19/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 5 (E/1990/25), chap. I, sect. C.

20/ A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation 1 (IV).

Noting with appreciation resolution 32/2 of 20 February 1991 of the Commission for Social Development on the establishment of an ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons, 21/

Affirming its belief that all women, regardless of their situation, are able to contribute to and benefit from development on an equal basis,

1. Takes note of the recommendations of the Seminar on Disabled Women, held at Vienna from 20 to 24 August 1990; 22/

2. Invites the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat to continue to provide statistical information on women with disabilities;

3. Recommends that the focal points in the United Nations system for the advancement of women and for disability issues cooperate more closely in their efforts to give continuing attention to issues involving women with disabilities, especially at the operational level and in the developing countries, particularly the least developed among them;

4. Invites Governments to follow general recommendation 18 (X) on disabled women, which was adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its tenth session; 23/

5. Requests the ad hoc open-ended working group to elaborate standard rules on the equalization of opportunities for disabled persons to pay attention to the particular needs of disabled women.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION VI

### National, regional and international machinery for the advancement of women*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 40/108 of 13 December 1985, in which the Assembly endorsed the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 24/

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* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

21/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1991, Supplement No. 6 (E/1991/26), chap. I, sect. D.

22/ E/CN.6/1991/CRP.1.

23/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 38 (A/46/38).

24/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achivements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Bearing in mind its resolution 1986/31 of 23 May 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General, inter alia, to propose guidelines for national machinery to promote the advancement of women and ways to ensure the effective implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies,

Recalling its resolution 1988/30 of 26 May 1988, in which measures were proposed to strengthen national machinery for the advancement of women, including the involvement of women's non-governmental organizations,

Mindful of its resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990, the annex to which contains the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and, specifically, recommendations XXIII and XXIV, which dealt with national machinery,

Recalling its resolution 1990/14 of 24 May 1990, in which the Council urged Governments to make renewed commitments to implement the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies by strengthening their national machinery and increasing the resources devoted to programmes for the advancement of women,

Recognizing that national machinery is an essential element in the promotion and implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 25/

1. Urges countries that have not yet done so to establish, as soon as possible, and at the latest by 1995, national machinery for the advancement of women that will allow it to have a direct effect on government policy;

2. Urges Governments to provide adequate and secure political, financial, technical and human resources to enable the national machinery to function effectively, including access to the highest levels within Government;

3. Stresses that the provision of technical assistance to countries establishing or strengthening national machinery should be considered a priority activity by the United Nations system and donor countries;

4. Invites the national machinery of different countries to exchange information, bilaterally or multilaterally, on issues of common interest, including information on innovative policies, programmes and research;

5. Requests the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the regional commissions and within existing resources, to promote such an exchange of information through United Nations documents, by supporting regional and subregional meetings of national machineries, by using resources from the regular budgets of the five regional commissions, by making provisions for it in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993 and by annually updating and distributing the Directory of National Machinery for the Advancement of Women;

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25/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

6. Reiterates its recommendation that the Secretary-General make available the services of an interregional adviser through the regular programme of technical cooperation, to assist, on request, national machinery in carrying out effectively the review and appraisal of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in preparing the reports called for in the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and in preparing for the world conference on women to be held in 1995;

7. Encourages the provision of such other technical assistance as may be required by national machinery, and the sharing of support and expertise between units of such machinery, particularly those in developing countries, to facilitate the preparation of national reports for the 1995 world conference on women;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-sixth session, on the activities of the appropriate bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Fund for Women, providing assistance to national machinery to ensure that the work being done is complementary rather than overlapping;

9. Also requests the Secretary-General to invite national Governments to review and update the case-studies prepared for the Seminar on National Machinery for Monitoring and Improving the Status of Women, held at Vienna from 28 September to 3 October 1987, and other appropriate case-studies, to publish those case-studies as a reference manual for national machinery and to make provisions for this in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993;

10. Requests that appropriate steps be taken, within existing resources, to strengthen the capacity within the Division for the Advancement of Women to work with national machinery and the specialized agencies of the United Nations system to achieve the goals of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies;

11. Urges Governments to make every effort to make information on their national machinery available and to ensure that titles accurately reflect the role of the offices concerned;

12. Requests Governments to ensure appropriate training for the staff of the national machinery and also to encourage the inclusion in management training courses of gender-analysis training and information on the role of national machinery;

13. Decides that an evaluation of the effectiveness of efforts to establish and improve national machinery since the adoption of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in 1985 and an analysis of the further action that is required should be included in a report for the 1995 world conference on women.

## DRAFT RESOLUTION VII

### Refugee and displaced women and children*

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling that the majority of refugees and displaced persons are women and children and that a significant number of families are headed by women,

Expressing its deep concern about the widespread violations of the rights of refugee and displaced women and children and their specific needs regarding protection and assistance,

Stressing the potential of refugee and displaced women and the importance of ensuring their full participation when analysing their needs and designing and implementing programmes,

Stressing that all action taken on behalf of refugee and displaced women and children must be guided by the relevant international instruments relating to the status of refugees, as well as other human rights instruments, in particular, the Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, adopted on 28 July 1951, 26/ and its 1967 Protocol, 27/ the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 28/ and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, 29/

Recalling resolution 34/2 of 8 March 1990 of the Commission on the Status of Women, 30/

Recognizing that ensuring equal treatment of refugee and displaced women and men may require specific action in favour of the former,

Emphasizing the close link between protection and assistance programmes,

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* For the discussion, see chap. IV.

26/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 189, No. 2545.

27/ Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

28/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

29/ General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex.

30/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 5 (E/1990/25), chap. I, sect. C.

Recalling the special relevance of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 31/ and the obligations of the United Nations system to give effect to its provisions,

Taking note of the substantial number of refugees and displaced persons and their impact on the development prospects of the already fragile infrastructure of some receiving countries,

Noting the important role of the main international bodies and organizations concerned, namely, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the United Nations Border Relief Operation, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the World Food Programme, the World Health Organization and the International Committee of the Red Cross,

Recognizing the important role played by non-governmental organizations,

Recalling its resolution 1990/78 of 27 July 1990, in which it requested the Secretary-General to initiate a system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the coordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees,

Commending the policy on refugee women recently adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 32/ and subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/140 of 14 December 1990,

Commending the Guidelines on Refugee Children adopted by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General 33/ and the report of the Expert Group on Refugee and Displaced Women and Children, held at Vienna from 2 to 6 July 1990, 34/

1. Calls upon Member States, in cooperation with United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations, urgently to address the root causes of refugee movements and displacement;

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31/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. 85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

32/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12 (A/45/12).

33/ E/CN.6/1991/4.

34/ EGM/RDWC/1990/1.

2. Calls upon the international community to give priority to extending international protection to refugee women and children by implementing measures to ensure greater protection from physical violence, sexual abuse, abduction and circumstances that could force them into illegal activities;

3. Urges Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to ensure that the specific needs and resources of refugee and displaced women and children are fully considered in the planning of their activities and programmes;

4. Also urges Member States, United Nations organizations and non-governmental organizations to ensure that refugee and displaced women are provided with sufficient information to enable them to make decisions on their own future;

5. Encourages Member States and relevant organizations to provide access to individual identification and registration documents, on a non-discriminatory basis, to all refugee women and, wherever possible, children, irrespective of whether the women and children are accompanied by male family members;

6. Urges Member States and concerned organizations to ensure the full participation of refugee and displaced women in the process of assessing their own needs and in the planning and implementing of programmes;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the system-wide review to assess the experience and capacity of various organizations in the coordination of assistance to all refugees, displaced persons and returnees assesses, in particular, the ability of those organizations to address the situation of refugee women and children;

8. Encourages international organizations to increase their capacity to respond to the needs of refugee and displaced women and children by greater coordination of their efforts;

9. Commends those Member States that, despite severe economic and development problems of their own, continue to admit large numbers of refugees into their territory, and emphasizes the importance of the international community sharing those burdens;

10. Requests all United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, Governments, non-governmental organizations and funding agencies that play a role in the assistance and protection of refugees and displaced persons, that have not already done so, to adopt a policy on refugee and displaced women and children that will provide for the full integration of women and children into their programmes, within their respective mandates, and will include a time-frame and procedures for implementation;

11. Urges the recruitment of staff, in particular, female field staff, who are able to provide assistance and protection appropriate to the specific needs of refugee women and children;

12. Calls upon organizations working with refugees to ensure that key staff members undergo training to raise their awareness of the issues specific to refugee and displaced women and to provide them with skills for planning appropriate protection and assistance activities;

13. Urges that, in the collection of refugee statistics, data disaggregated by age and gender be included in order to represent the refugee population accurately.

## B. Draft decisions

2. The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft decisions:

### DRAFT DECISION I

### Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

The Economic and Social Council takes note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its thirty-fifth session and approves the provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, set out below, and the relevant documentation:

### PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND DOCUMENTATION FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN

1. Election of officers.

   (Legislative authority: rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council)

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   (Legislative authority: Economic and Social Council resolution 1894 (LVII); rules 5 and 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Council)

3. Programming and coordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system.

   (Legislative authority: Programme planning regulation 4.12 (formerly 3.12); General Assembly resolution 45/125; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/18 and 1989/30)

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General containing updated information on the status of women in the Secretariat

   Note by the Secretariat on proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997

   For information

   Report of the Secretary-General on the status of women in the Secretariat (A/46/...)

4. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolutions 40/108, 41/111, 42/62, 43/101, 44/73, 44/77, 45/124, 45/127 and 45/129; Economic and Social Council resolutions 1987/20, 1988/22, 1990/5, 1990/9, 1990/12 and 1990/15 and decision 1989/129)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of Palestinian women and children

Report of the Secretary-General on physical violence against detained women that is specific to their sex

Report of the Secretary-General on violence against women in all its forms

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting a list of confidential and non-confidential communications concerning the status of women

Revised draft resolution E/CN.6/1991/L.14 entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" (see Commission decision 35/103)

For information

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (A/46/...)

Report of the Secretary-General on the interregional consultation on women in public life (A/46/...)

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its tenth session (A/46/...)

Report of the Secretary-General on the status of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (A/46/...)

5. Priority themes:

(Legislative authority: General Assembly resolution 44/76; Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/24 and decision 1990/213)

(a) Equality: Elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination against women;

(b) Development:

(i) Integration of women in the process of development;

(ii) Women and the environment;

(c) Peace: Equal participation in all efforts to promote international cooperation, peace and disarmament.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on elimination of de jure and de facto discrimination against women

Report of the Secretary-General on the integration of women in the process of development

Report of the Secretary-General on women and the environment

Report of the Secretary-General on equal participation in all efforts to promote international cooperation, peace and disarmament

6. Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace

7. Provisional agenda for the thirty-seventh session of the Commission.

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-sixth session.

DRAFT DECISION II

Request for additional conference facilities during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women*

The Economic and Social Council decides to approve the convening of four additional meetings, with interpretation services, to be held simultaneously with the plenary meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women during its thirty-sixth session, in order to consider the preparations for the world conference on women in 1995.

C. Resolutions of the Commission brought to the attention of the Council

3. The following resolutions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

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* For the discussion, see chap. V.

## Resolution 35/1. Programme and planning matters

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 39/238 of 18 December 1984 on programme planning,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/30 of 24 May 1989, in which the Council reiterated its decision that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1990-1991 and subsequent programme budgets should provide for full funding from the regular budget for the implementation of all aspects of legislative mandates for the advancement of women,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 45/124 of 14 December 1990, in which the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of the resources available and necessary to ensure adequate support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to the effective implementation of all other aspects of the programme on the advancement of women, and to report thereon to the Assembly at its forty-sixth session,

Mindful of the fact that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/105 of 27 July 1989, established a plan, by which the Secretary-General would report biennially on the extent to which the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development has been incorporated into the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system,

Noting that the General Assembly, in resolution 45/124 strongly supported the view of the Committee that the Secretary-General should accord higher priority within existing resources to strengthening technical and substantive support for the Committee,

Convinced of the necessity to implement the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997 with regard to the advancement of women in the most efficient and effective way,

Having considered the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed programme of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1992-1993, 35/

1. Endorses the proposed programme of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1992-1993, and recommends the following priorities in the preparation of the proposed programme budget:

(a) Strengthening substantive and technical support to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

(b) Preparations for the 1995 world conference on women;

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35/ E/CN.6/1991/CRP.3.

(c) Support for establishing and strengthening national machinery for the advancement of women;

2. Takes note of the report of the Secretary-General on the future of the Trust Fund for the Monitoring and Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women; 36/

3. Recommends to the Committee for Programme and Coordination and the Economic and Social Council, in reviewing the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development, that they examine in particular those organizations whose resources for the advancement of women have seemed to decrease, as well as the procedures for monitoring the incorporation of the system-wide medium-term plan in the programmes and budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system;

4. Recommends that the Secretary-General, in preparing the review requested by the General Assembly to analyse the evolution of resources available to the programme on the advancement of women since International Women's Year, examine the efficiency of the programme in terms of output delivery and in comparison with similar programmes of the United Nations, suggest means for providing improved support to the Commission on the Status of Women, to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and to development activities in priority areas, including indications of options for providing resources for those activities.

## Resolution 35/2. Cooperation to promote the advancement of women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Concerned at the delay in implementing the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 37/

Aware of the need to adopt urgent measures to facilitate the implementation of effective programmes for the achievement of the objectives of the Forward-looking Strategies,

Aware of the fact that successful experiences in promoting the advancement of women in certain countries could be valuable to other countries,

Recognizing the need to implement at the national level development programmes for the advancement of women that will favour the full integration of women into society, in the social, political and economic fields,

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36/ E/CN.6/1991/5.

37/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

Concerned that in some countries the lack of appropriate resources is an obstacle to the realization of such programmes,

1. Urges the international community to continue providing financial and technical assistance to specific development programmes for the advancement of women;

2. Calls upon international organizations to take specific measures to reinforce national efforts directed at improving the legal and social status of women;

3. Also calls upon international organizations to identify new forms of cooperation, considering that the positive results achieved by such cooperation would help to accelerate the full and equal participation of women in the development process.

## Resolution 35/3. Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 45/124 of 14 December 1990, Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/17 of 24 May 1990 and resolution 34/6 of 8 March 1990, adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women, 38/ especially as they relate to support for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the provision of training courses on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 34/180 of 18 December 1979, and the need for the timely transmission of the results of the work of the Committee to the Commission,

Reaffirming the essential relationship between the implementation of the Convention and the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 39/

Noting that the analysis of the Secretary-General in his report on national, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations, 40/ showed that the role of national machinery in the advancement of women was important in the implementation of the Convention, especially in periodic reporting by States parties to the Convention,

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38/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 5 (E/1990/25), chap. I, sect. C.

39/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

40/ E/CN.6/1991/3.

Stressing the importance of analysis of the periodic reports of States parties to the Convention to the preparation of priority themes for the Commission,

Convinced that the close relationship between the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 44/25 of 20 November 1989, implies that the secretariats of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child should work closely together,

Welcoming the transmission of general recommendations 16 (X), 17 (X) and 18 (X), adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its tenth session, in time to be taken into account by the Commission in its deliberations, 41/

Aware of the fact that the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women will occur on 3 September 1991,

1. Invites States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to follow general recommendations 16 (X), 17 (X) and 18 (X) of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;

2. Calls upon all States parties to the Convention to draw the attention of all States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to the benefits of doing so;

3. Encourages all States parties to the Convention to make every effort to facilitate the implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and interregional levels;

4. Urges the Secretary-General to strengthen the provision of training in the implementation of the Convention at the national, regional and interregional levels, especially in assisting States parties to meet their reporting obligations;

5. Urges States, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to provide training opportunities on a regular basis for persons preparing periodic reports of States parties to the Convention;

6. Invites the international community to mark in an appropriate manner the tenth anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention;

7. Recommends a close relationship between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other United Nations human rights bodies and between the relevant secretariats of those Committees.

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41/ E/CN.6/1991/CPR.4, annex.

## Resolution 35/4. Preparations for the world conference on women in 1995

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990, in which the General Assembly endorsed Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990 recommending that a world conference on women should be held in 1995,

Taking into account Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 on the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women to the year 2000,

Considering that the world conference on women should result in the full implementation of key aspects of the Forward-looking Strategies up to the year 2000,

Considering also that the world conference on women should focus world attention on the situation of women and should result in a renewal of political commitment,

1. Decides to prepare for consideration by the world conference on women in 1995 a programme of action comprising a limited number of issues that have been identified as representing a fundamental obstacle to the advancement of the majority of women;

2. Decides also that, within the programme of action, goals should be established, if possible in quantitative terms, and concise, action-oriented guidelines should be provided to accelerate the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women; 42/

3. Decides further that the programme of action should continue to focus on equality, development and peace and should include the following elements:

(a) The strengthening of efforts at the national and international levels, taking into account the circumstances in each country, to increase awareness among men and women of women's rights under international conventions and national law;

(b) The implementation of special measures to increase the proportion of women involved in decision-making in the economic, social and political spheres;

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42/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

(c) The strengthening of world-wide efforts to end illiteracy among women and girls by the year 2000;

(d) The establishment of specific programmes for improving the conditions of women and girls living in poverty, particularly those living in extreme poverty, by, inter alia, adequate training to develop their skills and capabilities;

(e) The establishment of specific programmes aimed at improving women's and girls' health by ensuring them access to adequate maternal health care, family planning and nutrition;

(f) The implementation of policies to prevent, control and reduce violence against women and girls in the family, the workplace and society;

(g) The establishment or strengthening of national institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women;

(h) The establishment of special programmes aimed at meeting the specific needs of refugee, displaced and migrant women and girls and those living in conflict areas;

(i) The elaboration of ways and means of using new and high technologies, as well as scientific research, to benefit women;

4. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its thirty-seventh session, a report on existing technical and financial cooperation targeting programmes in favour of women, as well as guidelines for a comprehensive plan to overcome constraints and increase such cooperation with regard to the elements set out above;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session a draft report to serve as a working document for the elaboration of the programme of action, based on existing United Nations data, bearing in mind that the programme of action should be concrete and concise, capable of leading to feasible, effective and immediate action, as well as awareness and political will on the part of Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations;

6. Requests the bodies, regional commissions, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the non-governmental organizations concerned, to contribute to the preparations for the world conference on women in 1995;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on the contribution of the bodies, regional commissions, specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, as well as the non-governmental agencies concerned, to the preparations for the conference.

Resolution 35/5. Women and the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Aware of the importance of an integrated approach to the health of women and the determining role played by women in development,

Considering the breadth of the medical, health, psychological and social effects of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) on women,

Grateful to the United Nations system for the efforts it has made, under the aegis of the World Health Organization, for the control of AIDS on a global scale, and encouraging the Division for the Advancement of Women to continue to take an active part in those efforts,

Stressing the role of national programmes for the control of AIDS, as well as the role of Governments, non-governmental organizations, voluntary organizations, the public sector and the private sector in the implementation of the global strategy for the prevention and control of AIDS,

Strongly reaffirming recommendation XVI of the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, formulated by the Commission at its thirty-fourth session 43/ and adopted by the Economic and Social Council by resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990,

Recalling the importance of the Paris Declaration on Women, Children and the Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (AIDS), adopted on 30 November 1989, and General Assembly resolution 45/187 of 21 December 1990, and emphasizing that the theme of World AIDS Day in 1990 was "Women and AIDS",

1. Recognizes the important role of women, women's organizations, non-governmental organizations and international agencies in the prevention of the transmission of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and in the care of persons suffering from AIDS;

2. Invites Member States, relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and specialized agencies of the United Nations system to take into account the conclusions and recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Women and HIV/AIDS and the Role of National Machinery for the Advancement of Women, held at Vienna from 24 to 28 September 1990; 44/

3. Invites Member States to evaluate and strengthen their policies and programmes for the control of AIDS for the benefit of women, incorporating the following measures, inter alia:

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43/ Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1990, Supplement No. 5 (E/1990/25), chap. I, sect. A.

44/ E/CN.6/1991/CRP.2.

(a) Establishment of structures enabling women, including vulnerable women, to receive appropriate information on AIDS;

(b) Development of preventive policies and awareness campaigns covering in particular the promotion of behaviour conducive to preventing the spread of AIDS, in order to protect women against the transmission of AIDS;

(c) Elaboration of strategies aimed at providing women, in particular those who are infected or are members of risk groups, with counselling and psychosocial support services, ensuring respect for confidentiality;

(d) Access by HIV-infected women to the necessary health care, including treatment at affordable cost and social services;

(e) Coordination of programmes for the control of AIDS with other programmes for women, in particular, programmes for family planning, maternal and child health, school education and the control of sexually transmitted diseases;

4. Recalls the necessity of combating discriminatory practices against persons affected by AIDS, particularly women who are in that situation and who are already suffering from discriminatory attitudes by reasons of their sex;

5. Calls upon the United Nations system to ensure that sufficient resources are allocated in programmes and activities for the control of AIDS to the aspects of the epidemic that concern women, particularly in developing countries;

6. Invites Member States to support and strengthen the involvement of women in the control of AIDS, by ensuring the representation of women's organizations and of national machinery in national committees for the control of AIDS and by improving the social, economic and legal status of women in order to enable them to participate fully and at all levels in programmes for the prevention and control of AIDS.

## Resolution 35/6. Women migrant workers

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Reaffirming the validity of the principles and standards set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, 45/

Bearing in mind the principles and standards established by the International Labour Organisation and the importance of the work carried out in connection with migrant workers and their families in other specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations,

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45/ General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex.

Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990,

Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 46/ concerning migrant women,

Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Expert Group Meeting on Vulnerable Women, held at Vienna from 26 to 30 November 1990, contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the priority theme of equality: vulnerable women, including migrant women, 47/

Recognizing the progress made by certain States on a regional or bilateral basis towards the protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families as well as the importance and usefulness of bilateral and multilateral agreements in this field,

Aware of the increasing number of women migrant workers from developing countries in all parts of the world,

1. Invites Member States to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a step towards the legal protection of women migrant workers;

2. Encourages Member States to establish or strengthen appropriate services dealing with questions on the international migration of workers and members of their families and, in carrying out their functions, to give due attention, inter alia:

(a) To the formulation and implementation of policies regarding migration of women;

(b) To the exchange of information, consultation and cooperation among the competent authorities of States involved in such migration;

(c) To the provision of information, in particular to employers, workers and their organizations, on policies, laws and regulations relating to migration and employment, on agreements concluded with other States concerning migration and on other relevant matters;

(d) To the provision of information and assistance to women migrant workers regarding pertinent immigration, labour, financial and other laws and regulations, as well as on conditions of work and life in the State of employment;

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46/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A, paras. 300-301.

47/ E/CN.6/1991/2, annex.

(e) To the provision of legal assistance and counselling services for women migrant workers;

3. Recommends that Governments periodically review the implementation of and, when necessary, revise migration policies and legislation to prevent discriminatory practices against women;

4. Encourages Member States to consult and cooperate, as appropriate, with a view to promoting sound, equitable and humane conditions in connection with the international migration of women;

5. Requests the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other appropriate associations of and for migrant women to assist in disseminating among migrant women information on their legal, social and economic rights and obligations, to provide counselling services, to identify problems and to cooperate with decision makers;

6. Requests national machineries to invite non-governmental organizations of migrant women to contribute to the planning process for policies and programmes affecting them;

7. Requests the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other associations for migrants to undertake activities for the purpose of raising awareness about the problems of women migrant workers;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-eighth session under the priority theme of development on the implementation of the present resolution and on the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as far as women migrants are concerned.

## Resolution 35/7. Women and development

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 and Commission resolutions 34/3 of 8 March 1990 and 34/5 of 9 March 1990,

Convinced that the effective mobilization of women is an essential element to achieving the objectives of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 48/ and the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, 49/

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48/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

49/ General Assembly resolution 45/199, annex.

Aware that the slow progress in the implementation of the Forward-looking Strategies as related to development necessitates urgent action to be taken by all the parties concerned,

Bearing in mind that the debt burden of many developing countries is a matter of concern and that the short-term impact of structural adjustment policies on women in relation both to their participation in economic development and to the support of their families is often negative,

Expressing deep concern that, despite the fact that poor rural women contribute to all aspects of the well-being of rural families and account for more than half of the food production of developing countries, they are often the most vulnerable and disadvantaged group in society,

Aware that women's inadequate access to basic education, health, child-care facilities and other social services continues to undermine efforts to fully integrate women into the development process,

1. Urges Governments to adopt policies to promote economic development that will ensure the full and explicit integration of women's concerns;

2. Calls upon Governments, international financial and other relevant institutions and non-governmental organizations to promote measures to stimulate the economies of developing countries and to provide financial services on the basis of equal opportunity for women and men, while avoiding adverse effects on their well-being, particularly that of vulnerable groups;

3. Appeals to Governments, donor countries, international agencies and appropriate financial institutions to make greater efforts to support the establishment of cooperative rural banks and other development-related institutions to assist women, particularly those engaged in small- and medium-scale productive activities;

4. Requests Member States to make provision for specific training programmes for women in rural and urban areas aimed at developing their technical and management skills and to give financial support, fellowships or both for training women, particularly those from developing countries, in science, technology, agriculture and management;

5. Calls upon Governments, donor countries and relevant international agencies to take further coordinated measures to facilitate the access of women, particularly rural and urban poor women, to basic education, health and child-care facilities;

6. Requests all relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system to strengthen their commendable efforts to support the economic advancement of rural women;

7. Requests the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the present resolution in his biennial monitoring report on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

## D. Decisions of the Commission brought to the attention of the Council

4. The following decisions adopted by the Commission are brought to the attention of the Council:

### Decision 35/101. Title of the world conference on women in 1995

At its 13th meeting, on 8 March 1991, the Commission on the Status of Women decided:

(a) That the world conference on women in 1995 should be entitled "Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace";

(b) That promotion of the world conference at the national level could also utilize additional formulations, such as the following sub-titles:

(i) Remove the Obstacles Now;

(ii) Women: Half the World - Half the Power;

(iii) Women: Mobilizing for Power - Acting for Change;

(iv) Social Justice for Women;

(c) That the results of the use of additional formulations at the national level should be made available to the Secretariat for inclusion in reports on the preparations for the world conference.

### Decision 35/102. Venue of the world conference on women in 1995

1. The Commission on the Status of Women considered the question of the venue of the World Conference in 1995.

2. General Assembly resolution 45/129 took note of the invitation extended by the Government of Austria to host the World Conference in 1995. The same resolution requested the Commission to decide on the venue of the Conference not later than 1992, taking into account that preference should be given to those regions which have not yet hosted a world conference on women. To date, world conferences on women have been held in the regions of Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and Africa.

3. The Commission took note of the offer made by the People's Republic of China to host the World Conference in 1995, including a forum for non-governmental organizations.

4. All the members of the Group of 77 expressed their support for China's invitation to host the Conference.

5. In accordance with General Assembly resolution 45/129, the Commission agreed to make known its decision during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

Decision 35/103. Communications concerning the status of women

At its 14th meeting, on 8 March 1991, the Commission on the Status of Women decided to defer to its thirty-sixth session consideration of the draft resolution entitled "Communications concerning the status of women" (E/CN.6/1991/L.14), as orally revised. The text of the revised draft resolution reads as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Communications concerning the status of women

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947 and 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, which continue to form the basis for the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women to receive at each of its regular sessions a list of confidential and non-confidential communications relating to the status of women,

"Taking into consideration its resolution 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, in which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group on communications to consider and prepare a report to the Commission on such communications,

"Recalling its resolution 1986/29 of 23 May 1986, in which it requested the Commission to continue to consider communications relating to the status of women and to make recommendations thereon to the Council, if necessary,

"Reaffirming that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and that women and men should participate on the basis of equality, irrespective of race or creed, in the social, economic and political processes of their countries,

"Recognizing that the mandate of the Commission to consider communications on the status of women is crucial to its central role in monitoring and formulating recommendations furthering the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of

Women 50/ and furthers its ability to fulfil other aspects of its mandate regarding the elimination of discrimination against women,

"Recalling its resolution 1990/8 of 24 May 1990, by which it requested the Secretary-General to examine, in consultation with Governments, the existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women, in order to ensure that such communications receive effective and appropriately coordinated consideration in view of their role in the work on the elimination of discrimination against women carried out by the Commission on the Status of Women, and to report thereon to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on examining existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women (E/CN.6/1991/10), which contains a number of valuable suggestions for improving the efficiency and usefulness of those mechanisms,

"1. Decides, in order to clarify the functions of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women, which are currently set out in paragraph 4 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, to authorize the Commission on the Status of Women to appoint at each of its regular sessions a working group consisting of not more than five of its members, selected with due regard for geographical distribution, to meet in closed meetings during the session in order to consider communications concerning discrimination against women, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, and other relevant information, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those situations that appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested discrimination against women;

"2. Requests the Secretary-General to support the activities of the Commission with regard to its consideration of communications and to ensure proper coordination of the activities of the Commission in this area and those of the other organs of the Economic and Social Council, by taking the following action:

"(a) To publicize widely among international and national organizations, in particular women's groups, the existence and scope of the communications mechanisms of the Commission;

"(b) To ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Centre for Human Rights coordinate closely so that all communications received are sent as soon as possible to the appropriate United Nations body and each concerned Member State pursuant to paragraph (e) of Council resolution 304 I (XI) and that the respective offices are informed of the disposition of the communications;

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50/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

"(c) To encourage the specialized agencies to provide to the Commission, through the Division for the Advancement of Women, communications or other information in the agencies' possession that is relevant to discrimination against women;

"(d) To make available to interested organizations and individuals, including authors of communications, any recommendations by the Commission for the Economic and Social Council on situations brought to the attention of the Commission by the Working Group;

"3. Reaffirms that the consideration by the Commission of situations brought to its attention by the Working Group shall remain confidential until such time as the Commission may decide to make recommendations to the Council;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that any costs resulting from the activities contemplated by the present resolution are kept to a minimum and that the activities are carried out within existing resources."

## Chapter II

## PROGRAMMING AND COORDINATION MATTERS RELATED TO THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

5. The Commission considered item 3 of its agenda at its 1st meeting, on 27 February 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development (E/1991/16);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the future of the Trust Fund for the Monitoring and Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1991/5);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (E/CN.6/1991/13);

(d) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed programme of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1992-1993 (E/CN.6/1991/CRP.3).

In addition, the Commission had before it for information the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its thirtieth session (A/45/16 (Parts I and II)) and the report of the Secretary-General on improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat (A/45/548).

6. In introducing the item, the Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women recalled the role and the activities of the Committee for Programme and Coordination. She said that the programme for the advancement of women had not been accorded special priority in the medium-term plan.

7. She explained that the implementation rate of the Division's programme had reached 71 per cent in 1988-1989, similar to that of the Secretariat as a whole, and that the rate was 93 per cent in 1990.

8. The Coordinator, Focal Point for Women, Office of Human Resources Management, informed the Commission of the progress made towards improving the status of women in the Secretariat.

Programme of work for the biennium 1992-1993

9. Several representatives drew attention to the apparent contradictions and lack of coordination regarding the establishment of priorities by intergovernmental organizations. Various representatives noted that the programme continued to provide for meetings of experts in the context of preparations for priority themes identified by the Commission. Many representatives welcomed the emphasis placed on assistance to Governments with a view to reinforcing national machinery. They stressed the importance of the preparations for the world conference on women in 1995 and of the Secretariat's efforts to increase support for the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women.

Future of the Trust Fund for the Monitoring and Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

10. A number of representatives expressed appreciation for the activities financed from the Trust Fund and the funds donated by certain Governments during 1990. They indicated their support for the activities proposed for 1991. At the same time, they stressed that, if the Trust Fund were to terminate at the end of 1991, it would be necessary to earmark resources from the regular budget in order to ensure continuity of the long-term programme for the advancement of women, as established by the Commission. One representative proposed that the programmes of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW) be subjected to an overall review at the world conference on women in 1995 to ensure better coordination and distribution of the funds allocated for their implementation.

Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

11. Several representatives expressed disappointment that the number of women holding posts subject to geographical distribution had not reached the target set for 1990 of 30 per cent. They stressed the need and the urgency for recruiting qualified women to fill posts at the senior level, and welcomed the recent apointment of a woman as United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. They expressed the hope that the world conference on women in 1995 would provide the necessary stimulus for reaching the targets set for 1995, and recalled that the United Nations should be a model institution with regard to equality between men and women. They were of the opinion that the working conditions and the opportunities of promotion for women in the Secretariat should be reviewed and improved, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and the Strategies. Several representatives noted that it was up to Member States to propose and encourage the candidature of women for posts carrying responsibility in the United Nations Secretariat.

12. Several representatives urged the Secretary-General to reappraise the resources available to the Focal Point for Women of the Office of Human Resources Management, particularly by including that item in the regular budget. Several representatives expressed satisfaction that an exhaustive survey and an overall analysis of the principal obstacles in the way of improving the status of women in the Secretariat had been conducted. They expressed the hope that Member States would undertake a similar survey.

Implementation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development

13. Many representatives noted the significance of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development in connection with the implementation of the Strategies. They considered that the plan represented a coherent and effective approach to planning and programming for the United Nations system as a whole.

14. In view of the complex requirements regarding the drafting of reports by the specialized agencies, it had been suggested that the Secretariat supply some explanatory notes on those requirements in the next edition of

Women 2000. An informal meeting with participation by representatives of Member States of the United Nations and the specialized agencies might be organized to consider the matter in detail.

## ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

### Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat

15. At the 4th meeting, on 1 March, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Australia, 51/ Cyprus, Denmark, 51/ Finland, 51/ Italy, New Zealand, 51/ Nigeria, Poland, Spain, 51/ Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, the United States of America, Zaire and Zimbabwe, subsequently joined by Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Greece, 51/ Ireland, 51/ Norway 51/ and the Sudan, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.3) entitled "Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat".

16. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of the sponsors, read out the following revisions to the draft resolution:

(a) At the end of operative paragraphs 1 and 2, the words "taking into consideration the need to increase the representation of women from the developing countries and those countries with a low representation of women;" were added;

(b) Operative paragraph 3, which had read: "Also urges the Secretary-General to make every effort to increase the number of women from those countries with a low representation of women", was deleted;

(c) Operative paragraphs 4 to 8 were renumbered 3 to 7.

17. At the same meeting, Morocco and Indonesia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution as orally revised.

18. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I).

### Programme and planning matters

19. At the 4th meeting, on 1 March, the representative of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, on behalf of Austria, Bulgaria, Denmark, 51/ Finland, 51/ Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.4) entitled "Programme and planning matters".

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51/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

20. At the 7th meeting, on 4 March, the Chairperson of the Commission, on behalf of the sponsors, read out the following revisions to the draft resolution:

(a) The fourth preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Mindful that Economic and Social Council decision 1989/105 established a biennial report on monitoring of the incorporation of the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development,"

was revised to read:

"Mindful of the fact that the Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1989/105 of 27 July 1989, established a plan, by which the Secretary-General would report biennally on the extent to which the system-wide medium-term plan for women and development has been incorporated into the programmes and programme budgets of the organizations of the United Nations system";

(b) At the end of operative paragraph 1, a new subparagraph was inserted, which read:

"(c) Support for establishing and strengthening national machinery for the advancement of women".

21. Subsequently, Canada joined in sponsoring the draft resolution, as orally revised.

22. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 35/1).

## Chapter III

## MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

23. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 2nd to 4th meetings, on 27 and 28 February and 1 March 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on proposals for the preparation and convening of the world conference on women in 1995 (E/CN.6/1991/6);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on preparations for the interregional consultation on women in public life (E/CN.6/1991/7);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on women and children living under apartheid (E/CN.6/1991/8);

(d) Note by the Secretary-General on the situation of Palestinian women (E/CN.6/1991/9);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on examining existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women (E/CN.6/1991/10);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on statistical indicators relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1991/11 and Corr.1);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on action to increase awareness of the slow progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (E/CN.6/1991/12).

24. In addition, the following documents were available to the Commission for its information:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its ninth session (A/45/38 and Corr.1);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (A/45/489);

(c) Letter dated 2 February 1991 from the Permanent Representative of China to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General concerning the holding of a world conference on women in 1995 (A/46/77-E/1991/13);

(d) Note by the Secretariat containing the substantive results of the tenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (E/CN.6/1991/CRP.4);

(e) Note by the Secretariat containing excerpts of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its thirty-second session, relating to the International Year of the Family (E/CN.6/1991/CRP.6).

25. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women introduced the item. She drew attention in particular to the proposals contained in the report of the Secretary-General on examining existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women (E/CN.6/1991/10), which was prepared in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/8.

Proposals for the preparation and convening of the world conference on women in 1995

26. There was extensive support for the convening of the world conference on women in 1995, with many representatives viewing it as an opportunity to give new impetus to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. Suggestions were made regarding the objectives of the world conference, in addition to the second five-year exercise of monitoring and reviewing the implementation of the Strategies. Recognizing that the progress made in implementing the Strategies was slow and that there had even been backward movement in certain areas, many representatives expressed the wish that the 1995 conference, in order to be effective, be geared towards action. The conference should formulate clear and specific guidelines for activities to be undertaken by the year 2000 and should identify the means necessary for implementing the Strategies.

27. The importance of regional meetings to prepare for the conference was stressed, together with the need for an effective information campaign. Several representatives suggested that an information and awareness campaign intended for the public at large be conducted prior to the conference and expressed the hope that all Member States would ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women before the conference.

28. Several representatives stressed the need to bring together all groups concerned in the preparations for the conference and to ensure full participation by them in the conference itself and in the forum of non-governmental organizations, to be held concurrently with the conference. Since non-governmental organizations were playing an increasingly important role in implementing the Strategies, the importance of cooperation between those organizations and Governments and intergovernmental organizations was stressed.

Preparations for the interregional consultation on women in public life

29. Many representatives noted the importance of the interregional consultation on women in public life and the impact that it could have on increasing public awareness of the problems and challenges associated with the status of women, their rights and their participation in political life. The consultation should stress the difference that a sufficient number of women at the decision-making level could make, for example in terms of identifying new priorities or alternative solutions to major political problems, and it should formulate specific recommendations.

30. It was suggested that women holding responsible positions within the structures in which government-level decisions were taken, and within non-governmental organizations, participate in the consultation. It should take into account the experience of women who had occupied high-level posts in

the past and women capable of rising to that level; it should provide as complete a reflection as possible of political opinions and of various regions.

31. Several representatives informed the Commission that their Governments were ready to provide extrabudgetary resources in order to enable representatives from the least developed countries to take part in the interregional consultation. It was stressed that adequate coverage by the media was important for the success of the consultation. The consultation would be of great significance for the preparation of the priority theme "Peace" for 1992.

Action to increase awareness of the slow progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

32. The representative of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat presented the report of the Secretary-General on the subject (E/CN.6/1991/12). She stressed that it would be difficult to conduct concurrently, in a satisfactory manner, the world campaign and the public information activities envisaged as part of the preparations for the world conference, given the absence of adequate resources.

33. Many representatives mentioned public information activities in their statements. The dominant view was that the success of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies required the public to become aware of the priorities that guided the advancement of women and the obstacles it was encountering. It seemed that the best results could be expected from an extensive information campaign, making use of the media, expert meetings and other means. Some representatives expressed the hope that the Department of Public Information would take part in a campaign of that kind and establish, for example, the main practical guidelines for it, or place certain information tools at its disposal. At the national level, a more intense awareness campaign based on symposia, seminars and radio and television programmes should make it possible to influence public opinion. There was extensive support for an information campaign on the world conference in 1995, as that year was also the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations.

Statistical indicators relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women

34. The representative of the Statistical Office of the United Nations Secretariat presented the report of the Secretary-General on the question (E/CN.6/1991/11), which would be the subject of a publication entitled The World's Women 1970-1990, to be issued shortly.

35. During the deliberations, many representatives discussed the activities undertaken at the national level in the area of statistics. Some representatives, including the representative of a specialized agency, used the statistical data provided by the report to illustrate, in particular, the difficulties encountered by women in the developing countries. Several representatives stressed the need to pursue efforts to amass and process statistical data on women at the national level, together with the need for technical assistance from the United Nations system, as part of the preparations for the world conference on women in 1995.

Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies in regard to women and children under apartheid

36. Many representatives expressed their support for women and children living under apartheid. Several representatives noted that apartheid continued and the promises to abolish its institutional basis had not yet led to concrete results.

37. A number of representatives drew the attention of the Commission to the double discrimination affecting women under apartheid. Several representatives expressed their satisfaction that Namibia had acceded to independence. Many representatives appealed to the international community to redouble its efforts to bring about the concrete abolition of the apartheid system and urged the Commission to adopt by consensus a specific resolution to that effect.

Situation of Palestinian women

38. Many representatives expressed their profound concern at the continuing deterioration in the conditions of life of Palestinian women in the occupied territories and called for redoubled efforts to mitigate their sufferings. Some expressed regret that Economic and Social Council resolution 1989/34, recommending that a mission be sent to the occupied territories to collect information on the situation of women and monitor its development, had not been implemented. The need to take into account the recommendations in the report of the mission of experts (E/CN.6/1990/10) was stressed. Representatives expressed support for the efforts of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and stressed that the Secretariat should support the Agency and cooperate with it with a view to developing women's programme centres in the occupied territories.

International Year of the Family

39. On the basis of the information transmitted by the Commission for Social Development, some representatives expressed satisfaction at the approach followed in the preparations for the International Year of the Family. Many representatives stressed that the policies and programmes adopted for the Year should contribute to the achievement of equality between men and women, in accordance with the principles affirmed in the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. In that connection, the Commission on the Status of Women, and each of its members at the national level, had an important role to play. Some representatives stressed that national machinery for the advancement of women should be associated with the preparation of policies and programmes adopted for the Year. Moreover, those activities should take into account the fact that the family took varying forms and was subject to constant change, that women played multiple roles in the family and that responsibilities in the family were often not equally distributed. Some representatives expressed their concern that action in favour of the family should not have the result of making the situation of female heads of households more difficult.

Communications concerning the status of women

40. On 27 and 28 February 1991, a list of confidential communications on the status of women (S.W. Communications list No. 25) was distributed in a sealed envelope to the representatives of each State member of the Commission.

41. At the 4th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission appointed a Working Group on Communications on the Status of Women. The Working Group held three closed meetings.

42. The Working Group submitted its report to the Commission at a closed meeting.

43. Considering the existing mechanisms regarding communications on the status of women, representatives took the view that these communications could constitute a unique source of information on the effects of discrimination on the life of women. They enabled the Commission effectively to monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. In the absence of another effective forum within the Economic and Social Council, the existing procedure represented the only possibility for victims of discrimination to make themselves heard. Many representatives expressed the view that the existing mechanism should be improved in order to make the procedures more effective.

44. Some representatives considered that it would be opportune to study in depth the proposals for reform put forward in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/1991/10). Others suggested that minor modifications should be made in the existing procedure with regard to communications concerning the status of women and that the question be re-examined before more radical changes were introduced.

45. Several representatives suggested that the Division for the Advancement of Women cooperate more closely on this question with the Centre for Human Rights. Some representatives suggested that a special rapporteur be appointed by the Commission. Others considered that the interest taken in the question should not lead to a duplication of the activities being carried out by other United Nations organs.

46. On 6 March, the representative of Bulgaria, on behalf of the members of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women, introduced the report of the Working Group in a closed meeting of the Commission. At the same meeting, the Commission decided to adopt the report of the Working Group and to include it in its entirety in the report of the Commission.

47. On 7 March, several members of the Commission questioned, in a closed meeting, whether, from a legal point of view, its earlier decision to include the report of the Working Group in the report of the Commission was within its mandate and whether that decision was not contradictory to the confidentiality of the procedures set out in paragraphs 5 and 6 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27.

48. On 8 March, after some discussion, the Commission, in a closed meeting, maintained its earlier decision to include the text of the report of the Working Group in its entirety in the report of the Commission. Several

delegations expressed their reservations on the decision. The Secretariat was, however, requested to provide a legal opinion, especially with respect to paragraphs 5 and 6 of Council resolution 1983/27, whether the decision to include the text of the report of the Working Group was within the Commission's mandate, and to report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on that matter. The report of the Working Group read as follows:

> "The Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women held three closed meetings. It considered the confidential list of communications concerning the status of women, contained in document S.W. Communications list No. 25, and the non-confidential list of communications concerning the status of women, contained in document E/CN.6/1991/CR.29, and prepared the following report:
>
> 'The Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women was guided in its deliberations by the mandate given in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27 of 26 May 1983.
>
> 'The Group had before it all communications received by the Division for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Office at Vienna, as well as those that had been extracted from the confidential list of communications concerning human rights received by the Division from the Centre for Human Rights at Geneva.
>
> 'The Group welcomed the fact that the majority of Governments had provided replies, which was conducive to a constructive dialogue between those Governments and the Commission on the Status of Women. The Group invited the Governments that had not responded to do so.
>
> 'From an analysis of those communications it was difficult to identify trends that revealed a consistent pattern of reliably attested injustice and discriminatory practices against women. However, the Group wished to draw to the attention of the Commission two issues concerning women: gender-specific discrimination with regard to equality in working life and violation of the physical integrity of women.
>
> 'After having considered all the communications, the Group felt that, while the communications procedure provided a valuable source of information on the effects of discrimination on the lives of women, the current procedure for communications on the status of women should be improved to make it more efficient and useful, and that clear criteria for receiving communications should be given.
>
> 'Based on those observations, the Group proposed to the Commission that it consider recommending appropriate action to the Economic and Social Council.'"

## ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

### Preparations for the world conference on women in 1995

49. At the 9th meeting, on 5 March, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States that are members of the Commission,

subsequently joined by Mexico, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.5) entitled "Preparations for the world conference on women in 1995", which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990, in which it recommended that a world conference on women be held in 1995,

"Taking into account Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 on the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,

"Considering that the world conference on women should result in the implementation of key aspects of the Forward-looking Strategies up to the year 2000,

"1. Decides to prepare for consideration by the world conference on women to be held in 1995, a programme of action comprising a limited number of issues that have been identified as representing a fundamental obstacle to the advancement of the majority of women;

"2. Decides also that, within the programme of action, goals should be established, if possible in quantitative terms, and concrete guidelines should be provided for their attainment;

"3. Decides further that the programme of action should include the following elements:

"(a) Efforts to be made at the national and international levels, taking into account circumstances in each country, to increase awareness among men and women of women's rights under international conventions and national law;

"(b) The implementation of special measures to increase the proportion of women involved in economic and political decision-making;

"(c) A world-wide effort to end illiteracy among women by the year 2000;

"(d) The establishment of specific programmes for training women living in poverty, particularly those living in extreme poverty, and for improving their conditions;

"(e) Specific programmes aimed at improving women's health by ensuring them access to adequate maternal health care, family planning and nutrition;

"(f) The implementation of policies to prevent, control and reduce violence against women in the family, the workplace and society;

"(g) The strengthening of national institutional mechanisms for the advancement of women;

"4. Requests the Secretary-General to present to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-sixth session a draft report to serve as a working document for the elaboration of the programme of action, based on existing United Nations data, bearing in mind that the programme of action should be very concrete and concise, capable of leading to feasible, effective and immediate action, as well as awareness and political will on the part of Governments and governmental and non-governmental organizations."

50. At its 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Patricia Licuanan (Philippines), introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.22) entitled "Preparations for the world conference on women in 1995", submitted on the basis of informal consultations held on draft resolution E/CN.6/1991/L.5.

51. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted draft resolution E/CN.6/1991/L.22 (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 35/4).

52. In the light of the adoption of draft resolution E/CN.6/1991/L.22, draft resolution E/CN.6/1991/L.5 was withdrawn.

## Title of the world conference on women in 1995

53. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a draft decision (E/CN.6/1991/L.21) proposed by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Licuanan (Philippines), entitled "Title of the world conference on women in 1995".

54. At the same meeting, the observer for Australia 52/ proposed that the word "sub-titles" be added after the words "such as the following".

55. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft decision, as orally amended (see chap. I, sect D, decision 35/101).

## Cooperation to promote the advancement of women

56. At the 9th meeting, on 5 March, the representative of Brazil, on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States that are members of the Commission, Australia 52/ and Sweden, subsequently joined by Italy and the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.6) entitled "Cooperation to promote the advancement of women".

57. At the 12th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission adopted the draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 35/2).

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52/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

## Women and children under apartheid

58. At the 9th meeting, on 5 March, the representative of Zaire, on behalf of the African States that are members of the Commission, and the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.7) entitled "Women and children under apartheid".

59. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Secretary of the Commission red out the following revisions to the draft resolution agreed upon during informal consultations:

(a) In operative paragraph 2, the words "the racist regime" were replaced by the word "apartheid";

(b) Operative paragraph 6, which had read:

"6. Demands the immediate and unconditional release of all political prisoners and detainees, among whom are women and children";

was replaced by the following text:

"6. Demands the unconditional release by 30 April 1991 of all political prisoners and detainees, among whom are women and children, in accordance with the undertaking of the President of South Africa";

(c) In operative paragraph 7, the words "continue with" were replaced by the words "maintain all".

60. At the 14th meeting, after hearing a statement by the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the sponsors, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised, by a roll-call vote of 32 to 1, with 9 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV). The voting was as follows:

In favour: Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jamaica, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Sudan, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Zaire, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, France, Italy, Japan, Netherlands, Poland, Sweden.

61. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Canada, Austria, Turkey, the Netherlands, the United States of America and Japan.

## Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

62. At the 9th meeting, on 5 March, the representative of Austria, on behalf of Australia, 52/ Austria, China, Czechoslovakia, 52/ Denmark, 52/ Egypt, France, Germany, 52/ Greece, 52/ Italy, New Zealand, 52/ the Philippines, Spain, 52/ Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, subsequently joined by Bulgaria, Canada and Poland, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.8) entitled "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women" and orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the words "Recommends that the Economic and Social Council should endorse" were replaced by the words "Invites States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to follow";

(b) Operative paragraph 7, which had read:

> "7. Recommends that the Secretary-General should ensure a close relationship between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child and between the secretariats of those Committees".

was revised to read:

> "7. Recommends a close relationship between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and between the relevant secretariats of other human rights bodies".

63. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Secretary of the Commission informed the Commission that, on the basis of informal consultations, operative paragraph 7 of the draft resolution had been further revised to read as follows:

> "7. Recommends a close relationship between the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Rights of the Child and other United Nations human rights bodies and between the relevant secretariats of those Committees".

64. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 35/3).

## Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

65. At the 9th meeting, on 5 March, the representative of the Sudan, on behalf of Algeria, 52/ Burkina Faso, Cuba, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, 52/ Rwanda, Senegal, 52/ the Sudan, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the United Arab Emirates, 52/ the United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, 52/ Zambia 52/ and Zimbabwe, subsequently joined by Bangladesh, China, Egypt, Kuwait 52/ and

Pakistan, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.9) entitled "Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women".

66. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, by a roll-call vote of 28 to 1, with 13 abstentions (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III). The voting was as follows: 53/

In favour: Austria, Bangladesh, Brazil, China, Colombia, Cuba, Cyprus, Ecuador, Egypt, Ghana, Guatemala, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Nigeria, Philippines, Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania, Zimbabwe.

Against: United States of America.

Abstaining: Bahamas, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, France, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Lesotho, Netherlands, Poland, Rwanda, 54/ Zaire.

67. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the United States of America, Japan and Bulgaria.

68. The representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran made a statement.

## Violence against women in all its forms

69. At the 9th meeting, on 5 March, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, 52/ Egypt, Ghana, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, 52/ Lebanon, 52/ Lesotho, Morocco, the Philippines, Poland, Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Zimbabwe, subsequently joined by Zaire, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.11) entitled "Violence against women", which read as follows:

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in which it was stated that violence against women was a major obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace,

"Bearing in mind Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/15 of 24 May 1990 on the recommendations and conclusions arising from the first review and appraisal of the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking

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53/ The representative of Pakistan informed the Commission that, had he been present during the vote, he would have voted in favour of the draft resolution.

54/ The representative of Rwanda informed the Commission that her delegation had withdrawn as a sponsor of the draft resolution.

Strategies, which, in the annex, concluded that violence against women in the family and society was pervasive and cut across lines of income, class and culture, and specifically recommendation XXII, which called for immediate action on the part of Governments, relevant agencies, women's organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to address the issue of violence against women,

"Noting Economic and Social Council resolution 1988/27, which called for the continuation of the consolidation of efforts to eradicate violence against women within the family and society,

"Noting as well the relevant recommendations of the Sixth and Eighth United Nations Congresses on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the relevant observations of the Seventh Congress,

"Taking into consideration that certain groups of women, including disabled women, aboriginal women and elderly women, are particularly vulnerable to violence,

"Bearing in mind the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, adopted by the General Assembly in 1979, which guarantees the right of women to equal status with men,

"Noting that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women recommended that States parties include in their reports to the Committee information about measures undertaken to protect women from violence of any kind occurring within the family, at the workplace or in any other area of social life and that the Committee decided that at its eleventh session, to be held in 1991, to undertake a study of violence against women,

"Also noting, however, that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women does not address specifically violence against women,

"1. Calls upon Member States to recognize that violence against women must be countered by a wide variety of measures;

"2. Reminds Member States that violence against women is an equality rights issue that derives from a power imbalance between women and men in society;

"3. Urges Member States to adopt, strengthen and enforce legislation prohibiting violence against women;

"4. Urges also Member States to take all appropriate administrative, social and educational measures to protect women from all forms of physical or mental violence;

"5. Recommends that a framework for an international instrument, such as an optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, should be developed that would explicitly address the issue of violence against women;

"6. Requests the Division for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs, United Nations Office at Vienna, to convene in 1991 a meeting, to be funded under extrabudgetary resources, of experts representing all regions, and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to develop the elements to be contained in an international instrument addressing the issue of violence against women and to report thereon to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session;

"7. Requests Governments at all levels to develop training programmes for members of the criminal justice system and health-care system, including police officers, doctors, nurses, social workers, lawyers and judges, to ensure sensitization and the fair administration of justice with respect to equality issues;

"8. Requests Governments, non-governmental organizations, academics, international organizations and other relevant bodies to undertake research into the causes of violence against women."

70. At the 12th meeting, on 7 March, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Australia, 52/ Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, 52/ Denmark, 52/ Egypt, 52/ Finland, 52/ Ghana, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, 52/ Lebanon, 52/ Lesotho, Morocco, Norway, 52/ Philippines, Poland, Spain, 52/ Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 52/ Zaire and Zimbabwe, introduced a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.11/Rev.1) entitled "Violence against women in all its forms", which she orally revised by deleting, in operative paragraph 6, the words "in cooperation with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch" after the words "through the Division for the Advancement of Women" and by inserting the words "to address the issue of violence against women and" between the words "Committee on Crime Prevention and Control" and "to discuss the possibilities".

71. At the same meeting, after a statement by the representative of France, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II).

## Venue of the world conference on women in 1995

72. At the 11th meeting, on 6 March, the representative of China introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.12) entitled "Venue of the world conference on women in 1995", which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Recalling General Assembly resolution 44/77 of 8 December 1989 on the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women and Economic and Social Council resolution 1990/12 of 24 May 1990 on a world conference on women in 1995,

"Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 45/129 of 14 December 1990, in which the General Assembly requested the Commission on the Status of Women to decide on the venue of the world conference,

not later than 1992, taking into account that preference should be given to those regions that had not hosted a world conference on women,

"Taking into account the deliberations at its thirty-fifth session on the venue of the world conference,

"1. Takes note with appreciation of the invitation extended by the Government of China to host a world conference on women in 1995, including a forum for non-governmental organizations;

"2. Decides to hold the world conference on women in 1995 at Beijing."

73. At the 14th meeting, on 8 March, the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Mrs. Mervat Tallawy (Egypt), informed the Commission of the results of the informal consultations she had conducted on the matter.

74. The Chairperson then read out the text of a decision, which had been agreed upon during the informal consultations and which the Commission decided to bring to the attention of the Economic and Social Council (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 35/102).

75. In the light of that decision, draft resolution E/CN.6/1991/L.12 was withdrawn.

## Communications concerning the status of women

76. At the 11th meeting, on 6 March, the representative of the United States of America, on behalf of Australia, 52/ Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, 52/ Denmark, 52/ Italy, Morocco, the Netherlands, New Zealand, 52/ the Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Sweden, Switzerland, 52/ Thailand, the United States of America and Zaire, subsequently joined by Austria, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.14) entitled "Communications concerning the status of women", which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"Communications concerning the status of women

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Recalling its resolutions 76 (V) of 5 August 1947 and 304 I (XI) of 14 and 17 July 1950, which continue to form the basis for the mandate of the Commission on the Status of Women to receive at each of its regular sessions a list of confidential and non-confidential communications relating to the status of women,

"Taking into consideration its resolution 1983/27 of 26 May 1983, in which it reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission to consider confidential and non-confidential communications on the status of women and authorized the Commission to appoint a working group on

communications to consider and prepare a report to the Commission on such communications,

"Recalling its resolution 1986/29 of 23 May 1986, in which it requested the Commission to continue to consider communications relating to the status of women and to make recommendations thereon to the Council, if necessary,

"Reaffirming that discrimination against women is incompatible with human dignity and that women and men should participate on the basis of equality, irrespective of race or creed, in the social, economic and political processes of their countries,

"Recognizing that the mandate of the Commission to consider communications on the status of women is crucial to its central role in monitoring and formulating recommendations furthering the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women 55/ and furthers its ability to fulfil other aspects of its mandate regarding the elimination of discrimination against women,

"Recalling its resolution 1990/8 of 24 May 1990, by which it requested the Secretary-General to examine, in consultation with Governments, the existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women, in order to ensure that such communications receive effective and appropriately coordinated consideration in view of their role in the work on the elimination of discrimination against women carried out by the Commission on the Status of Women, and to report thereon to the Commission at its thirty-fifth session,

"Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on examining existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women (E/CN.6/1991/10), which contains a number of valuable suggestions for improving the efficiency and usefulness of those mechanisms,

"1. Decides, in order to clarify the functions of the Working Group on Communications concerning the Status of Women, which are currently set out in Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27, to authorize the Commission on the Status of Women to appoint at each of its regular sessions a working group consisting of not more than five of its members, selected with due regard for geographical distribution, to meet in closed meetings shortly before its following session in order to consider communications concerning discrimination against women, including the replies of Governments thereon, if any, and other relevant information, with a view to bringing to the attention of the Commission those situations that appear to reveal a consistent pattern of reliably attested discrimination against women;

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55/ Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

"2. Decides that the standards for determining the admissibility of communications shall be those set out in the annex to the present resolution;

"3. Requests the Secretary-General to support the activities of the Commission with regard to its consideration of communications and to ensure proper coordination of the activities of the Commission in this area and those of the other organs of the Economic and Social Council, by taking the following action:

"(a) To publicize widely among international and national organizations, in particular women's groups, the existence and scope of the communications mechanisms of the Commissions;

"(b) To distribute the list of communications and any relevant information received from the specialized agencies of the United Nations to the members of the Commission, in particular to the members of the Working Group, before the Working Group meets;

"(c) To ensure that the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Office at Vienna and the Centre for Human Rights coordinate closely so that all communications received are sent to the appropriate body and that the respective offices are informed of the disposition of the communications;

"(d) To encourage the specialized agencies to provide to the Commission, through the Division for the Advancement of Women, communications or other information in the agencies' possession that is relevant to discrimination against women;

"(e) To make available to interested organizations and individuals, including authors of communications, any recommendations by the Commission for the Economic and Social Council on situations brought to the attention of the Commission by the Working Group;

"4. Reaffirms that the consideration by the Commission of situations brought to its attention by the Working Group shall remain confidential until such time as the Commission may decide to make recommendations to the Council;

"5. Requests the Commission, following its examination of any situation brought to its attention by the Working Group, to determine ways of obtaining more information, if needed, in order to be able to decide whether to make a recommendation thereon to the Council pursuant to Council resolution 1983/27;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that any increase in costs resulting from the activities contemplated by the present resolution are kept to a minimum and that the activities are carried out within existing resources.

"Annex

"STANDARDS FOR DETERMINING THE ADMISSIBILITY
OF COMMUNICATIONS

"Source

"1. An admissible communication may originate from any person (or group of persons) who, it may be reasonably presumed, is a victim of discrimination against women, or has direct and reliable knowledge of such discrimination.

"2. Anonymous communications shall be inadmissible.

Contents and nature of allegations

"3. A communication must contain a description of the facts and must indicate the purpose of the petition and the rights that have been violated.

"4. A communication shall be inadmissible if its language is essentially abusive and in particular if it contains insulting references to the State against which its complaint is directed. Such a communication may be considered if, following deletion of the abusive language, it meets the other criteria for admissibility.

"5. A communication shall be inadmissible if it has manifestly political motivations and its subject is contrary to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

"6. A communication shall be inadmissible if it appears that it is based exclusively on reports disseminated by mass media.

"Existence of other remedies

"7. A communication shall be inadmissible if its admission would prejudice the functions of the specialized agencies of the United Nations.

"8. A communication shall be inadmissible if domestic remedies have not been exhausted, unless it appears that such remedies would be ineffective nor unreasonably prolonged, in which case the efforts to exhaust such remedies should be satisfactorily detailed.

"9. A communication shall be inadmissible if it relates to a case that has been settled by the State concerned in accordance with applicable instruments in the field of human rights.

"Timeliness

"10. A communication shall be inadmissible if it is not submitted to the United Nations within a reasonable time after domestic remedies have been exhausted, as provided above."

77. In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America orally revised it as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the words "paragraph 4 of" were inserted between the words "currently set out in" and "Economic and Social Council resolution";

(b) Operative paragraph 2 was deleted and consequently the annex was deleted.

78. At the 146th meeting, on 8 March, the Secretary of the Commission read out further revisions to the draft resolution agreed upon as a result of informal consultations:

(a) In operative paragraph 1, the words "shortly before its following session" were replaced by the words "during the session";

(b) Subparagraph 3 (b) was deleted;

(c) In subparagraph 3 (c) (para. 3 (b) of the final text), the words "sent to the appropriate body" were replaced by the words "sent as soon as possible to the appropriate United Nations body and each concerned Member State pursuant to paragraph (e) of Council resolution 304 I (XI)";

(d) Operative paragraph 5 was deleted;

(e) In operative paragraph 6 (para. 5 of the final text), the words "increase in" were deleted.

79. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the representative of China, the Commission decided to defer consideration of the draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.14), as orally revised, to its thirty-sixth session (see chap. I, sect. D, decision 35/103).

## Chapter IV

## PRIORITY THEMES

80. The Commission considered item 5 of its agenda at its 5th to 10th meetings, on 1, 3 and 4 to 6 March 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on vulnerable women, including migrant women (E/CN.6/1991/2);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on national, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations (E/CN.6/1991/3);

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on refugee and displaced women and children (E/CN.6/1991/4).

81. The Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women introduced the item. She emphasized the vulnerability of certain groups of women such as young women, elderly women, handicapped women, female heads of households and migrant women. She noted the importance of national, regional and international machinery for integrating women in the development process. It was necessary to ensure respect for the rights of refugee and displaced women and children and to avoid all the forms of violence of which they were often victims.

### A. Equality: Vulnerable women, including migrant women

82. Many representatives emphasized that the term "vulnerable" did not necessarily imply victimization, passivity, powerlessness and guilt. Women were more exposed to the risks and cumulative effects of discrimination when discrimination based on sex was added to discrimination based on individual or socio-economic characteristics. Some representatives emphasized that poor women, particularly those living in rural areas, were particularly vulnerable.

83. Many representatives stated that measures for the benefit of vulnerable groups of women should aim at improving their living conditions and integrating them fully in society. They emphasized that political will was necessary at the highest level in order to establish social policies directed towards the advancement of vulnerable women. Along with providing juridical and physical protection, Governments should set in place specific measures and support services to promote the independence and self-sufficiency of women belonging to vulnerable groups and should consider not only their actual but also their potential contribution. Several representatives emphasized the need for innovative policies in the field of housing. Many representatives noted that the key question for all vulnerable groups of women was education and training.

84. The recommendations of the Expert Group Meeting on Vulnerable Women, with regard to female heads of households, received general approval. The number of female heads of households had increased; as many as one third of all

households might be headed by women in certain countries. Representatives emphasized that a household of that type was more vulnerable from the economic and social point of view, particularly in a period of crisis, and that the probability of poverty being transmitted from one generation to the next was increasing. Some representatives indicated that, because of the growing number of separations and divorces and also the effects of migration, most female heads of households were unmarried mothers with young children in their care who had to shoulder both professional and family responsibilities. The situation of female heads of households could be improved by social policies in the areas of family allowances and day-care centres, tax relief and training and vocational reintegration measures. The legal recognition of women as heads of households was of paramount importance.

85. Many representatives considered that the subject of female heads of households should be followed closely and should appear as a theme for the International Year of the Family in 1994. In that context, changes in the role and responsibilities of fathers and husbands should be encouraged.

86. Many representatives emphasized that discrimination against women began at birth and during childhood, when girls did not enjoy equal rights and opportunities. From the earliest age, conditions were created for later physical and economic vulnerability, often resulting in disadvantage, and sometimes in infirmities and multiple handicaps. Some representatives referred to demographic problems, which were the result of the low age of marriage and the high rate of fertility in their countries.

87. Several representatives referred to the danger of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) for women and girls and to the necessity of providing information regarding all aspects of AIDS, as well as appropriate care for women suffering from AIDS. Some representatives noted that younger women were becoming victims of trafficking and were forced to engage in prostitution. The risk of contracting the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and of becoming a victim of AIDS was particularly great for such women.

88. A number of representatives stated that it was particularly important to alter ways of thinking and to promote the economic independence of young women by advising them and providing them with thorough vocational training, particularly in sectors offering the prospect of stable jobs and career opportunities, including such prospects in non-traditional occupations. Reference was made to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, set out in the annex to General Assembly resolution 44/25, to the recommendations of the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and to the importance of fixing definite targets and time-limits so as to progressively reduce the difference in status between the sexes and to achieve equality by the year 2000.

89. Several representatives and observers stressed that migrant women encountered difficulties regarding access to employment and often found themselves in situations that led to their exploitation in the labour market. Migrant women needed information on their rights and obligations, in a language they understood. To improve their living conditions, literacy campaigns associated with vocational training courses were indispensable. Some representatives emphasized that the major problem for migrant women was that of integration in a different environment. That problem could also affect second-generation female children. The situation of the wives of

migrant workers, who had remained in their home countries and who depended on financial support from their male relatives, was mentioned.

90. Several representatives noted that disabled and elderly women made important contributions to society, in particular in activities in which their age or disability was not a handicap. The role of elderly people as volunteers within non-governmental organizations was noted. There was also a need for disabled women to organize themselves in associations of their own. Combating stereotypes and promoting a positive image was one way of eliminating prejudice against vulnerable women. Some representatives noted that disabled women were often subjected to violence. Others stated that elderly women lacked proper protection by the social services. The low level of their resources was linked to their low income levels during their professional life and to frequent interruptions because of family responsibilities.

### B. Development: National, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations

91. Many representatives reaffirmed the basic role of both national and international machinery for the advancement of women in the implementation of the Nairobi Strategies. Some representatives noted that the scope of the functions of the machinery for the advancement of women did not exempt Governments and ministries from their responsibility for implementing the Strategies. The importance of machinery at the international level was a new factor brought out by several representatives. Regional and international machinery played a role in backing up national efforts, especially in the exchange of information, training of personnel and financial assistance enabling the national machinery to carry out projects and programmes.

92. Many representatives described the structure of their national machinery. Recent developments had shown that the machinery was no longer limited to action at the central government level, but was expanding in order to take more specific action. The attention of the Commission was drawn to the fact that a number of machineries had been thoroughly restructured over the past few years, resulting in an improvement in their status, increased development of their technical potential or the creation of new organizations to supplement and strengthen them. As a result some machineries experienced the need for constant adjustment to the often rapid evolution taking place in their countries.

93. Some representatives stressed the success of their machinery. They expressed particular appreciation for the political support received at all levels, which enabled them to carry out specific activities, and also the importance accorded to the quality of management. Many representatives noted the difficult situation affecting the machinery. The problems encountered were often well known, and mainly associated with a lack of human and financial resources. The various manifestations of certain cultural phenomena, such as patriarchy, and the strong influence of certain traditions often made it difficult for the machinery to function. Added to those problems were others, such as those arising in particular from debt and structural adjustment and from the environment or the AIDS epidemic.

94. The resources of the national machinery were inadequate for meeting requirements, and hence international aid was frequently needed; however, the machinery, because of its inherent weakness, had difficulty in negotiating aid under satisfactory terms. Aid was needed in many areas, such as for training. Many representatives stressed the usefulness of the assistance provided by the United Nations system, especially in the collection and dissemination of information; additional effort was required to develop networks linking the national machinery and the machinery of the United Nations system.

### C. Peace: Refugee and displaced women and children

95. Many representatives considered that refugee and displaced women and children were particularly vulnerable. The double vulnerability of children and the specific risks run by those separated from their parents called for action to consolidate the family. In the case of women, psychological problems linked to the fact of being cut off from their home countries added to the material problems stemming from their unstable situation in the country of initial asylum, in which the infrastructure and services available often proved inadequate. Despite such difficulties, refugee or displaced women, who often became heads of households, had to continue to ensure that their families survived, maintain the family's cohesion and conserve its values. Some representatives stressed that refugee women were also affected by the limitations on women's rights in the host society, and were often the last to find a job and be reintegrated. Violence in all its forms was a constant threat, before or after arrival in the camps, where violence in families and sexual aggression were frequent.

96. Many representatives emphasized the need for long-term solutions that dealt with the root of the refugee problem. In that connection, with a view to preventing the flow of refugees and also to make repatriation or reintegration possible, they appealed to the international community to bring about lasting peace and to prevent regional conflicts, or to resolve them promptly when they occurred. Some representatives expressed the hope that the recent implementation of certain United Nations resolutions could be extended to all United Nations resolutions, limiting the risks of violation of international law, while others stressed the importance of negotiations in cases of conflicts. Various regional or national situations were mentioned, and several representatives expressed the hope that the question of Palestine would be resolved; proposals along those lines had been put forward.

97. From a long-term point of view, development was considered a precondition for solving the refugee problem, and the need to adopt measures to promote the integration of refugees and displaced persons, particularly women and children, in development was stressed. Several representatives recommended programmes involving training, education and income-generating activities. These were complementary to immediate relief and assistance measures, which were also necessary, in the areas of health, social services, welfare and security in particular. In that connection, the limited resources of refugee organizations was a serious problem, obliging them to confine themselves to relief and assistance measures.

98. Many representatives declared their support for the activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, in particular, and said that the Commission on the Status of Women had an important role to play in terms of encouragement and follow-up. Increased participation by women in the definition and implementation of refugee policies at all levels was another precondition for the adoption of policies better suited to their needs; there was broad consensus on that subject.

99. Many representatives considered that an important part of the activities for the benefit of refugee women was legal in nature, and they referred to the international legal instruments existing in that area. Women should be given direct information of their rights, and persons who impeded the exercise of those rights and were guilty of violence against them should be prosecuted. Finally, many representatives of countries receiving refugees, of specialized agencies belonging to the United Nations system and of non-governmental organizations reported on programmes for refugee and displaced women and children. Against the background of the recent aggravation of the refugee problem in certain countries, national machinery for refugees had been established.

## ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMISSION

### Disabled women

100. At the 11th meeting, on 6 March, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Australia, 56/ Austria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, 56/ Finland, 56/ Ghana, Greece, 56/ Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, 56/ Morocco, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, 56/ the Philippines, Poland, Spain, 56/ the Sudan, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 56/ Yemen, 56/ Zambia 56/ and Zimbabwe, subsequently joined by Canada, Lesotho, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Zaire, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.15) entitled "Disabled women", which she orally revised by replacing, in operative paragraph 3, the words "least developed countries" by the words "developing countries, particularly the least developed among them".

101. At the 12th meeting, on 7 March, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V).

### Women and the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)

102. At the 11th meeting, on 6 March, the representative of France, on behalf of Australia, 56/ Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Italy, the Philippines, Sweden, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Zimbabwe and Zaire, subsequently joined by Argentina, 56/ introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.17) entitled "Women and the prevention and control of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS)".

103. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.17/Rev.1), which included the following changes:

(a) The second preambular paragraph, which had read:

"Considering the breadth of the medical, scientific and psychosocial effects of AIDS on women",

was revised to read:

"Considering the breadth of the medical, health, psychological and social effects of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS) on women";

(b) In operative paragraph 1, the words "crucial role incumbent on women" were replaced by the words "the important role of women";

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56/ In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

(c) In operative paragraph 3, the word "policy" was replaced by the words "policies and programmes";

(d) In subparagraph 3 (a), the words "including vulnerable women" were inserted between the words "enabling women" and "to receive";

(e) In subparagraph 3 (d) the words "at affordable cost" were inserted between the words "treatment" and "and social services";

(f) In subparagraph 3 (e), the words "school education" were inserted between the words "maternal and child health" and "and the control".

104. At the same meeting, the Bahamas, Jamaica, the Sudan, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America and Zambia 56/ joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

105. Also at the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 35/5).

## Women migrant workers

106. At the 11th meeting, on 6 March, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Australia, 56/ Egypt, Italy, Mexico, Morocco, the Philippines, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.18) entitled "Women migrant workers", which read as follows:

"The Commission on the Status of Women,

"Reaffirming the validity of the principles and standards set forth in the basic instruments regarding the international protection of human rights, in particular the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex, of 18 December 1979),

"Bearing in mind the principles and standards established by the International Labour Organisation, and the importance of the work carried out in connection with migrant workers and their families in other specialized agencies and organs of the United Nations,

"Recalling the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/158 of 18 December 1990,

"Recalling also the relevant paragraphs of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women (E.85.IV.10, paras. 300-301) concerning migrant women,

"Taking note of the conclusions and recommendations adopted by the Expert Group Meeting on Vulnerable Women, held at Vienna from 26 to 30 November 1990, contained in the report of the Secretary-General (E/CN.6/1991/2) on the priority theme of equality: vulnerable women, including migrant women,

"Recognizing the progress made by certain States on a regional or bilateral basis towards the protection of the rights of migrant workers and members of their families as well as the importance and usefulness of bilateral and multilateral agreements in this field,

"Aware of the increasing number of female migrants, particularly migrant workers from developing countries in all parts of the world,

"1. Urges Member States to sign and ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as a step towards the legal protection of migrant women workers;

"2. Requests that Member States should establish or strengthen appropriate services dealing with questions on the international migration of workers and members of their families, and that, in carrying out their functions, they give due attention, inter alia, to:

"(a) The formulation and implementation of policies regarding migration of women;

"(b) The exchange of information, consultation and cooperation between the competent authorities of States involved in such migration;

"(c) The provision of appropriate information, particularly to employers, workers and their organizations on policies, laws and regulations relating to migration and employment, on agreements concluded with other States concerning migration and on other relevant matters;

"(d) The provision of information and appropriate assistance to migrant women workers regarding pertinent immigration, labour, financial and other relevant laws and regulations, as well as on conditions of work and life in the State of employment;

"3. Recommends that Governments periodically review the implementation of and, when necessary, revise migration policies and legislation to prevent discriminatory practices against women;

"4. Encourages Member States to consult and cooperate, as appropriate, with a view to promoting sound, equitable and humane conditions in connection with the international migration of women;

"5. Requests the relevant organizations of the United Nations system, non-governmental organizations and other appropriate associations of and for migrant women to assist in disseminating among migrant women information on their legal, social and economic rights and obligations, to provide counselling services, to identify problems and to cooperate with decision makers;

"6. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission at its thirty-sixth session on the implementation of the present resolution and of the International Convention on the Prevention of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families as far as women migrants are concerned, in 1994, under the priority theme of development."

107. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.18/Rev.1) submitted by Mexico 56/ on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, Australia, 56/ China, Italy, Poland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, subsequently joined by Austria, Turkey and the United States of America.

108. At the same meeting, the Secretary of the Commission, on the basis of informal consultations, informed the Commission that operative paragraph 6, which had read:

> "Requests national machineries to invite non-governmental organizations of migrant women in the planning process for policies and programmes affecting them";

was revised to read:

> "Requests national machineries to invite non-governmental organizations of migrant women to contribute to the planning process for policies and programmes affecting them".

109. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. C, resolution 35/6).

## National, regional and international machinery for the advancement of women

110. At the 9th meeting, on 5 March, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Australia, 56/ Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, 56/ Egypt, Finland, 56/ Indonesia, Jamaica, Kuwait, 56/ Lebanon, 56/ Lesotho, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, Sweden, Switzerland, 56/ Turkey, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, 56/ the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe, subsequently joined by Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Rwanda, Spain, 56/ the Sudan, Thailand, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Yemen, 56/ introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.10) entitled "National, regional and international machinery for the advancement of women", and orally revised it by inserting, in operative paragraph 8, the words "including the United Nations Development Fund for Women" between the words "United Nations system" and "providing assistance".

111. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.10/Rev.1), which included the following changes:

(a) In operative paragraph 5, the words "by making provisions for it in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993" were inserted between the words "regional commissions" and "and by annually updating";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the words "Recommends again" were replaced by the words "Reiterates its recommendation";

(c) In operative paragraph 8, the words "Division for the Advancement of Women, Centre for Social Development and Humanitarian Affairs of the United Nations Office at Vienna" were replaced by the word "Secretary-General";

(d) In operative paragraph 9, the words "Division for the Advancement of Women" were replaced by the word "Secretary-General", and the words "and to make provisions for this in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993" were added at the end of the paragraph;

(e) In operative paragraph 12, the word "that" between the words "to encourage" and "management training" was replaced by the words "the inclusion in".

112. At the same meeting, the Deputy Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women made a statement on the programme budget implications of the revised draft resolution.

113. At the same meeting, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the revised draft resolution as follows:

(a) In operative paragraph 5, the words "and within existing resources" were inserted between the words "regional commissions" and "to promote";

(b) In operative paragraph 10, the words "within existing resources" were inserted between the words "be taken" and "to strengthen".

114. Subsequently, Austria, the Bahamas, Cyprus, Nigeria, Uganda, Zaire and Zambia 56/ joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution.

115. The representatives of Egypt and Austria made statements in connection with the revisions made by Canada. The representative of the United States of America stated that her delegation would dissociate itself from the adoption of the draft resolution because of possible financial implications.

116. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.10/Rev.1) as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VI).

## Women and development

117. At the 11th meeting, on 6 March, the representative of Zaire, on behalf of the African States that are members of the Commission and the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.13) entitled "Women and development", which she orally revised by inserting the word "often" between the words "they are" and "the most" in the fifth preambular paragraph.

118. At the 13th meeting, on 8 March, the Commission had before it a revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.13/Rev.1), which included the following changes:

(a) In operative paragraph 2, the words "search for" were replaced by the word "promote";

(b) In operative paragraph 4, the words "and urban" were inserted between the words "in rural" and "areas", and the words "and management" were added at the end of the paragraph;

(c) In operative paragraph 5, the word "coordinated" was inserted between the words "further" and "measures";

(d) In operative paragraph 6, the word "continue" was replaced by the word "strengthen".

119. At the same meeting, the representative of Ghana, on behalf of the sponsors, orally revised the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.13/Rev.1) by adding, in the fourth preambular paragraph, the word "short-term" before the word "impact".

120. Subsequently, Australia 56/ and Canada joined in sponsoring the revised draft resolution, as orally revised.

121. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the revised draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.13/Rev.1) as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. B, resolution 35/7).

122. After the adoption of the draft resolution, the representative of the United States of America made a statement.

Refugee and displaced women and children

123. At the 11th meeting, on 6 March, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Australia, 56/ Austria, Costa Rica, Cyprus, Finland, 56/ France, Germany, 56/ Greece, Guatemala, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, 56/ Norway, 56/ the Philippines, Poland, Spain, 56/ the Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, 56/ Turkey, the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, the United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia 56/ and Zimbabwe, subsequently joined by Canada, Côte d'Ivoire and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution (E/CN.6/1991/L.16) entitled "Refugee and displaced women and children". In introducing the draft resolution, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of the sponsors, made the following oral revisions:

(a) In operative paragraph 5, the words "access to" were inserted between the words "to provide" and "individual identification" and the words "on a non-discriminatory basis" were inserted between the words "registration documents" and "to all refugee women";

(b) In operative paragraph 6, the word "relevant" before the word "programmes" was deleted;

(c) In operative paragraph 7, the word "study" was replaced by the word "address";

(d) In operative paragraph 10, the words "and regional" between the words "intergovernmental" and "organizations" were deleted and the words "refugee women" were replaced by the words "women and children".

124. At the 12th meeting, on 7 March, on the basis of informal consultations, the Secretary of the Commission read out the following revisions to the draft resolution:

In operative paragraph 10, the words "that have not already done so" were inserted between the words "displaced persons" and "to adopt a policy" and the words "and procedures" were inserted between the words "time-frame" and "for implementation".

125. At the same meeting, the Commission adopted the draft resolution, as orally revised (see chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution VII).

## Chapter V

## PROVISIONAL AGENDA FOR THE THIRTY-SIXTH SESSION OF THE COMMISSION

126. The Commission considered item 6 of its agenda at its 14th meeting, on 8 March 1991. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Note by the Secretariat on the proposed work programme required to prepare for the in-depth consideration of the priority themes scheduled for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/1991/CRP.5);

(b) Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session together with a list of requested documentation (E/CN.6/1991/L.20).

127. The Deputy Director of the Division for the Advancement of Women made an introductory statement.

128. During the discussion, several delegations commented on the late issuance of the note by the Secretariat on the proposed work programme required to prepare for the in-depth consideration of the priority themes scheduled for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission (E/CN.6/1991/CRP.5). Several delegations also stated that the section relating to women and the environment should be more balanced.

129. At the same meeting, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to include a separate item entitled "Preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development and Peace" in the provisional agenda for its thirty-sixth session.

130. Delegations requested that documents for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, particularly the note on preparations for the priority themes, be distributed in good time.

131. At the same meeting, the Commission approved the provisional agenda, for the thirty-sixth session, as orally amended, for submission to the Economic and Social Council and requested the secretariat of the Commission to complete it in the light of decisions taken by other organs (for the text of the draft decision, see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I).

### Request for additional conference facilities during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission

132. At the 14th meeting, on 8 March, on the proposal of the Chairperson, the Commission decided to recommend that the Economic and Social Council approve the convening of four additional meetings, with interpretation services, during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission; those meetings would be held simultaneously with the plenary meetings of the Commission for the purpose of considering the preparations for the world conference on women in 1995 (see chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II).

133. At the same meeting, the Commission was informed that a statement on the programme budget implications of convening four additional meetings, with interpretation services, during the thirty-sixth session of the Commission, would be submitted to the Council for approval.

## Chapter VI

## ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

134. At its 14th meeting, on 8 March 1991, the Commission adopted the report on its thirty-fifth session (E/CN.6/1991/L.19 and Add.1-3).

## Chapter VII

## ORGANIZATION OF THE SESSION

### A. Opening and duration of the session

135. The Commission on the Status of Women held its thirty-fifth session at the Vienna International Centre from 27 February to 8 March 1991. The Commission held 14 meetings.

136. The session was opened by the Under-Secretary-General, Director-General of the United Nations Office at Vienna. In her introductory statement, she said that the last decade of the twentieth century marked the final stage in achieving the objectives of equality, development and peace of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies. The implementation of those objectives, on which the work of the Division for the Advancement of Women was based, involved the search for ways of removing the causes of future conflicts and of building a society in which there would be neither war nor poverty.

137. She pointed out that the work of the Commission focused essentially on priority themes. In her view, the priority themes were characterized by the notion of unity in diversity and by the importance of international cooperation.

138. With regard to unity in diversity, she explained that all the problems specific to each group of women had one element in common: discrimination on grounds of sex. It was therefore necessary to strengthen all policies in favour of women, drawing inspiration, in particular, from the efforts made by certain non-governmental organizations to bring about equality.

139. With reference to the importance of international cooperation, she stressed that the strengthening of national machinery for the advancement of women would not be possible without assistance through international cooperation. She referred to the task to be performed by the Commission at the current session concerning the preparations for and the venue of a world conference on women in 1995.

140. With regard to the programme of the Division, she suggested that the Commission should help to define its priorities.

### B. Attendance

141. The session was attended by representatives of 45 States members of the Commission. Observers for other States Members of the United Nations and for non-member States also attended, as well as representatives of organizations of the United Nations system and observers for intergovernmental, non-governmental and other organizations. A list of participants is contained in annex I to the present report.

## C. Election of officers

142. In accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1987/21, the officers of the Commission had been elected for a two-year period at the thirty-fourth session. Since the German Democratic Republic had acceded to the Federal Republic of Germany on 3 October 1990, the Commission, in accordance with rule 19 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions, elected a new Chairperson to replace Helga E. Hoerz (German Democratic Republic), who had been elected at the thirty-fourth session.

143. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February, the Commission elected by acclamation Nina Klimovna Kovalskaya (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic) as Chairperson of the thirty-fifth session of the Commission.

144. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission elected by acclamation Liliana Bonilla (Colombia) as Vice-Chairperson to replace Esther Lozano de Rey (Colombia), who had resigned.

145. The following persons therefore served as officers:

Chairperson: Nina Klimovna Kovalskaya (Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic)

Vice-Chairpersons: Liliana Bonilla (Colombia)
Patricia Licuanan (Philippines)
Mervat Tallawy (Egypt)

Rapporteur: Olivier Maitland Pelen (France).

## D. Agenda and organization of work

146. At its 1st meeting, on 27 February, the Commission adopted the provisional agenda contained in document E/CN.6/1991/1, as follows:

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

3. Programming and coordination matters related to the United Nations and the United Nations system.

4. Monitoring the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women.

5. Priority themes:

   (a) Equality: Vulnerable women, including migrant women;

   (b) Development: National, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations;

   (c) Peace: Refugee and displaced women and children.

6. Provisional agenda for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session.

147. Also at its 1st meeting, the Commission approved the organization of the work of the session (E/CN.6/1991/L.1).

## E. Appointment of the members of the Working Group on Communications

148. At its 4th meeting, on 1 March, the Commission decided to establish a Working Group to consider, under agenda item 4, communications regarding the status of women, pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1983/27. Five members nominated by their regional groups were appointed:

Auwa Mai Ali (Nigeria)
Raquel Blandon de Cerezo (Guatemala)
Irina Bokova (Bulgaria)
Chen Shiqiu (China)
Gerd Engman (Sweden)

## F. Friends of the Rapporteur

149. The Commission also decided to establish an informal group of Friends of the Rapporteur, comprising the following five members, nominated by their regional groups, to assist the Rapporteur in completing the report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session:

Lulu Mulasi (Zaire)
Mohamed Hussin Nayan (Malaysia)
Gruzyna Budziszewska (Poland)
Margarita Flórez (Cuba)
Keith Moss (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)

## G. Consultation with non-governmental organizations

150. Written statements submitted by non-governmental organizations in accordance with rule 76 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council are listed in annex II to the present report.

## Annex I

## ATTENDANCE

### Members

| | |
|---|---|
| **Austria:** | Johanna Dohnal, Richard Wotava, Mechtild Petrisch-Holaday, Christine Schneider, Brigitte Mensens, Ingrid Schaffer, Petra Modrian, Dorothea Gaudart, Birgit Stimmer, Ida Leeb-Jordanits, Ewald Jäger, Florian Krenkel, Alois Kraut, Gertraud Pichler, Marion Hason, Eveline Hönigsberger, Doris Ranftl-Guggenberger, Helga Pegac, Renate Papsch, Christine Anzböck, Heidemarie Fenzl, Elfriede Fritz, Waltraud Schütz, E. Hummel, Ingrid Kurz, Gerti Perlaki, Ulrike Lunacek, Elisabeth Förg-Rob, Elisabeth Franzoi, Christine Bruckschögl |
| **Bahamas:** | Cora Bain-Colebrooke |
| **Bangladesh:** | Nasim Firdaus |
| **Brazil:** | Thereza Maria Machado Quintella, Alfredo Carlos de Oliveira Tavares, Marilia Sardenberg Zelner, Ricardo Luis Pires Ribeiro da Silva |
| **Bulgaria:** | Irina Bokova, Clement Pramov |
| **Burkina Faso:** | Kadiatou Korsaga, Mariam Lamizana |
| **Canada:** | Kay Stanley, Valeri Raymond, Rhonda Ferderber, Martin Loken, Stephen Moran, Marnie Girvan |
| **China:** | Wang Shuxian, Chen Shiqiu, Lin Shangzhen, Du Yong, Lin Chongfei, Chen Yongling, Li Jun |
| **Colombia:** | Liliana Bonilla, Maria Isabel Segura |
| **Costa Rica:** | Manuel Constenla, José Luis Chacón |
| **Côte d'Ivoire:** | Salimata Yvette Koné |
| **Cuba:** | Margarita Florez, Nery Rodriguez |
| **Cyprus:** | Erato Kozakou Marcoullis |
| **Ecuador:** | Fernando Flores |
| **Egypt:** | Mervat Tallawy, Maha Kamel Fahmy, Khaled Abdel-Hamid |
| **France:** | Pierrette Biraud, Marcel Tremeau, Olivier Maitland Pelen, Jean Galinier, Caroline Mechin, Luc Derepas, Iris Gundogar, Lucette Gossot |

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| Ghana: | Joyce Bamford-Addo, Clifford Nii Amon Kotey |
| Guatemala: | Raquel Blandón de Cerezo, María Teresa Rodríguez Blandón, Wendy Martínez |
| India: | Peter L. Sinai, Saurabh Kumar, D. R. Pradhan |
| Indonesia: | Syamsiah Achmad, J. P. Louhanapessy, Dadang Sukandar, Ghaffar Fadyl, Eddy Pratomo, Yasril Baharuddin |
| Iran (Islamic Republic of): | Hossein Noghrehkar Shirazi, Farideh Hassani, Farhad Mamdouhi |
| Italy: | Tina Anselmi, Gianni Ghisi, Fiammetta Milesi Ferretti, Marta Ajo', Giuseppe Scognamiglio |
| Jamaica: | Beverley Manley, Margaret Gray |
| Japan: | Makiko Sakai, Mitsuko Horiuchi, Fumie Onoe, Kunio Nakamura, Kazutaka Nakazawa, Masako Toba |
| Lesotho: | A. M. Hlalele, E. T. Mamonnye, A. T. Ralebitso |
| Malaysia: | Dato' Napsiah Omar, Dato' Zakiah Hanum Abdul Hamid, Mohd. Hussin Nayan, Zuraidah Amiruddin, Arupiah bt. Hassan |
| Mexico: | Olga Pellicer, Maria Cristina de la Garza Sandoval, Julian Ventura Valero |
| Morocco: | Aicha Kabbaj, Abdallah Zegrani |
| Netherlands: | Joke Swiebel, Enrik Plug, Piet de Klerk, Thérèse Fogelberg, Susan Blankhart, Johan Kramer, Margriet Landman, Reinette Van Der Waals |
| Nigeria: | Hauwa Mai Ali, Maryam Yunusa, Mahmud M. Bauchi, Sylvia I. Ekpo, Rosemary Dajo |
| Pakistan: | Mahmud A. Zaka, Farman Ullah |
| Philippines: | Patricia B. Licuanan, Linglingay F. Lacanlale, Thelma R. Castillo |
| Poland: | Grazyna Budziszewska, Ireneusz Matela, Jolanta Hajduk-Wykretowicz, Grzegorz Jazowski |
| Rwanda: | Louise Antoinette Mukasine |
| Sudan: | Sakina Mohamed Hassan, Abdallah M. A. Wadi |
| Sweden: | Gerd Engman, Charlotte von Redlich, Eva Walver-Brundin, Anna-Karin Holm, Varonika Wand-Danielsson, Roland Johansson, Erika Johansson |

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| Thailand: | Saisuree Chutikul, Benjamas Marpraneet, Apinya Na Nakorn, Siriboon Arjunaka |
| Turkey: | Emel Dogramaci, Gul Aykor, N. Murat Ersavci, Gülay Aslantepe, Mustafa Vuruskaner |
| Uganda: | Miria Matembe, Rosemary Semafumu |
| Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic: | Nina Klimovna Kovalskaya, Svetlana Viktorovna Ostroushchenko, Yurii Vasilevich Kostenko, Sergei Kostantinovich Prodan |
| Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: | T. N. Nikolaeva, T. I. Leta, L. S. Shipovalova, A. N. Samoilov, M. P. Beliakov, E. T. Tregoubenko, N. V. Beliakov |
| United Republic of Tanzania: | Anna Makinda, Maria Kisanga, Shamin Nyanduga |
| United States of America: | Juliette Clagett McLennan, Michael H. Newlin, Anita King, Guadalupe Quintanilla, Elsie Yartanian, John A. Buche, Crayon C. Efird, Richard W. Hoover, John Knox, Sharon B. Kotok, Joyce Leader, Megan McCall |
| Zaire: | Mitheo Lola Mara Ntumba, Bagbeni Assumani, Bokonga Ekanga Botombele, Bolie Nonkwa, Ghonda Napo Lukuya Nku, Nduku Booto, Lulu Mulasi |
| Zimbabwe: | Salome D. Nyoni |

States Members of the United Nations represented by observers

Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Byelorussian Soviet Socialist Republic, Chile, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iraq, Ireland, Lebanon, New Zealand, Norway, Oman, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Senegal, Spain, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Venezuela, Viet Nam, Yemen, Yugoslavia, Zambia.

Non-member States represented by observers

Holy See, Republic of Korea, Switzerland.

United Nations Secretariat

Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.

United Nations bodies

International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, United Nations Children's Fund.

Specialized agencies

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, World Health Organization, World Bank, International Fund for Agricultural Development, United Nations Industrial Development Organization.

Intergovernmental organizations represented by observers

Commonwealth Secretariat, European Community, League of Arab States, Organization of American States (Inter-American Commission of Women).

Other organization represented by an observer

Palestine

Liberation movement

Pan Africanist Congress of Azania

Non-governmental organizations

Category I: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization of Consumers Unions, International Planned Parenthood Federation, Soroptimist International, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Federation of Trade Unions, Zonta International.

Category II: All-India Women's Conference, American Association of Retired Persons, Bahá'í International Community, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Disabled Peoples' International, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Human Rights Internet, International Abolitionist Federation, International Association of Schools of Social Work, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of University Women, International Federation of Women in Legal Careers, International Federation on Aging, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and Peoples, Medical Women's International Association, National Council of German Women's Organizations - Federal Union of Women's Organizations and Women's Groups of German Associations, Pan-African Women's Organization, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of

Catholic Students), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Confederation of Organizations of the Teaching Profession, World Federation of Methodist Women, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations.

Roster: The Hunger Project, International Inner Wheel.

## Annex II

## LIST OF DOCUMENTS BEFORE THE COMMISSION AT ITS THIRTY-FIFTH SESSION

| Document symbol | Agenda item | Title or description |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/1991/1 | 2 | Provisional agenda |
| E/CN.6/1991/2 | 5 (a) | Priority themes: Equality: Vulnerable women, including migrant women: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/3 | 5 (b) | Priority themes: Development: National, regional and international machinery for the effective integration of women in the development process, including non-governmental organizations: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/4 | 5 (c) | Priority themes: Peace: Refugee and displaced women and children: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/5 | 3 | The future of the Trust Fund for the Monitoring and Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/6 | 4 | Proposals for the preparation and convening of the world conference on women in 1995: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/7 | 4 | Preparations for the interregional consultation on women in public life: report of the Secretary-General |

| Document symbol | Agenda item | Title or description |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/1991/8 | 4 | Women and children living under apartheid: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/9 | 4 | The situation of Palestinian women: note by the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/10 | 4 | Examining existing mechanisms for communications on the status of women: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/11 and Corr.1 | 4 | Statistical indicators relating to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/12 | 4 | Action to increase awareness of the slow progress in the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/13 | 4 | Improvement of the status of women in the Secretariat: report of the Secretary-General |
| E/CN.6/1991/CRP.1 | 5 (a) | Conclusions and recommendations made at the Seminar on Disabled Women and the Expert Group Meeting on Female Heads of Household and abstracted from the Kitakyushu City Declaration on Population Aging in the Context of the Family: note by the Secretariat |

| Document symbol | Agenda item | Title or description |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/1991/CRP.2 | 5 (b) | Extracts from the conclusions and recommendations of expert group meetings and seminars relevant to national machinery |
| E/CN.6/1991/CRP.3 | 3 | Proposed programme of work of the Division for the Advancement of Women for the biennium 1992-1993: note by the Secretariat |
| E/CN.6/1991/CRP.4 | 4 | Substantive results of the tenth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women: note by the Secretariat |
| E/CN.6/1991/CRP.5 | 6 | Proposed work programme required to prepare for the in-depth consideration of the priority themes scheduled for the thirty-sixth session of the Commission: note by the Secretariat |
| E/CN.6/1991/CRP.6 | 4 | International Year of the Family: note by the Secretariat |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.1 | 2 | Organization of work of the session: note by the Secretariat |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.2 | 2 | Status of documentation for the session: note by the Secretariat |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.3 | 3 | Australia, Cyprus, Denmark, Finland, Italy, New Zealand, Nigeria, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, United States of America, Zaire and Zimbabwe: draft resolution |

| Document symbol | Agenda item | Title or description |
|---|---|---|
| E/CN.6/1991/L.4 | 3 | Bulgaria, Finland, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.5 | 4 | Brazil (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States that are members of the Commission on the Status of Women): draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.6 | 4 | Brazil (on behalf of the Latin American and Caribbean States that are members of the Commission on the Status of Women): draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.7 | 4 | Zaire (on behalf of the African States that are members of the Commission on the Status of Women): draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.8 | 4 | Australia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, France, Germany, Greece, Philippines, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.9 | 4 | Algeria, Burkina Faso, Cuba, Cyprus, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malaysia, Morocco, Nigeria, Oman, Rwanda, Senegal, Sudan, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.10 | 5 (b) | Australia, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Egypt, Jamaica, Philippines, Sweden, |

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| | | Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.10/Rev.1 | 5 (b) | Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Japan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Yemen and Zimbabwe: revised draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.11 | 4 | Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Egypt, Ghana, Italy, Philippines, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and Zimbabwe: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.11/Rev.1 | 4 | Australia, Austria, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Finland, Ghana, Italy, Jamaica, Kuwait, Lebanon, Lesotho, Morocco, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Turkey, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Zaire and Zimbabwe: revised draft resolution |

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| E/CN.6/1991/L.12 | 4 | China: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.13 | 5 (b) | Zaire: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.13/Rev.1 | 5 (b) | Mexico (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77) and Zaire (on behalf of the African States that are members of the Commission on the Status of Women): revised draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.14 | 4 | Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Cyprus, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Italy, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Philippines, Poland, Rwanda, Sweden, Switzerland, United States of America, Zaire and Zimbabwe: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.15 | 5 (a) | Australia, Austria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Denmark, Finland, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Italy, Kuwait, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Yemen, Zambia and Zimbabwe: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.16 | 5 (c) | Australia, Austria, Costa Rica, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, New Zealand, Norway, Philippines, Poland, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia: draft resolution |

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| E/CN.6/1991/L.17 | 5 (a) | Côte d'Ivoire, France, Guatemala and Sweden: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.17/Rev.1 | 5 (a) | Argentina, Australia, Canada, Côte d'Ivoire, Ecuador, France, Guatemala, Italy, Philippines, Sweden, Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Zaire and Zimbabwe: revised draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.18 | 5 (a) | Philippines: draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.18/Rev.1 | 5 (a) | Australia, China, Italy, Mexico (on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77), Poland and Union of Soviet Socialist Republics: revised draft resolution |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.19 and Add.1-3 | 7 | Draft report of the Commission on its thirty-fifth session |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.20 | 6 | Draft provisional agenda and documentation for the thirty-sixth session: note by the Secretariat |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.21 | 4 | Draft decision submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Patricia Licuanan (Philippines) |
| E/CN.6/1991/L.22 | 4 | Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-Chairperson of the Commission, Ms. Patricia Licuanan (Philippines) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/1 | 4 | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with |

| Document symbol | Agenda item | Title or description |
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| | | the Economic and Social Council: International Abolitionist Federation, All-India Women's Conference and Institute of Social Studies Trust (category II) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/2 | 5 | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities (category I) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/3 | 5 (a) | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Soroptimist International and Zonta International (category I); Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Disabled Peoples' International, International Federation of University Women, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs), (International Movement of Catholic Students), World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation of Methodist Women (WFMW) and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (category II) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/4 | 5 (a) | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social |

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| | | Council: International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU), Soroptimist International and Zonta International (category I); Associated Country Women of the World, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), Disabled Peoples' International, International Federation for Home Economics, International Federation of University Women, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs), (International Movement of Catholic Students), Women's International Zionist Organization, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, World Federation of Methodist Women (WFMW) and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (category II); European Federation for the Welfare of the Elderly (EURAG), Helpage International and International Inner Wheel (Roster) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/5 | 5 (b) | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: Associated Country Women of the World (category II) |

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| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/6 | 5 (c) | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council on Social Welfare, League of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, Soroptimist International and Zonta International (category I); All-India Women's Conference, Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), International Catholic Migration Commission, International Council of Jewish Women, International Federation of Women Lawyers, International Movement for Fraternal Union among Races and People, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for Intellectual and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of Catholic Students), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (category II) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/7 | 5 (c) | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: World Veterans Federation (category I) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/8 | 5 (a) | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organization in consultative status with |

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| | | the Economic and Social Council: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities (category I) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/9 | 3 | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council of Women, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organisation of Consumers Unions (IOCU), Soroptimist International, Women's International Democratic Federation and Zonta International (category I); International Association of Democratic Lawyers, International Association of Women in Radio and Television, International Federation of University Women, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations and World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts (category II) |
| E/CN.6/1991/NGO/10 | 5 (c) | Statement submitted by the following non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council: International Alliance of Women - Equal Rights, Equal Responsibilities, International Council of |

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| | | Women, International Council on Social Welfare, International Federation of Business and Professional Women, International Organization of Consumers Unions (IOCU), Soroptimist International, World Veterans Federation and Zonta International (category I); Bahá'í International Community, International Federation of University Women, Pan-Pacific and South-East Asia Women's Association, Women's International Democratic Federation, World Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations and World Union of Catholic Women's Organizations (category II); Gray Panthers and International Federation on Aging (Roster) |

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